



**Code of Conduct
For
Athletic
Participation**



CODE OF CONDUCT

For

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

**Adopted by the SBCSC School Board 6/16/2008
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Each SBCSC high school and intermediate center offers a varied and comprehensive athletic program. Student participation in the athletic program is governed by rules and regulations established by one of all of the following: the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA), the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), the Northern Indiana Conference (NIC), and the South Bend Department of Athletics. These guidelines have been developed to provide for:

- The uniform organization and management of each sponsored activity*
- The safety and welfare of each student participant*
- The protection of individual student rights*
- The instruction in the essential skills and attitudes needed for participation*

INTRODUCTION

Participation in athletic activities is a privilege not a right. Likewise, there is an inherent risk involved in these activities. Parents and students need to understand that such risk could be catastrophic in nature. Students who participate assume greater responsibility and make certain sacrifices. All participating students must conduct themselves in a manner that appropriately represents the students, the families, the activities, the teams, the schools and the community of South Bend.

A major objective of competitive athletic programs is the development of a healthy body and mind coupled with emotional control and self-discipline. To achieve these objectives, to apply the philosophy of competitive activities and to provide an environment that offers equal opportunity to all who participate, basic rules and regulations are needed. The following rules and regulations are designed to promote a better understanding of the purpose of athletic competition and to produce desirable benefits for the individual participants, the teammates, the school population and the community. They shall apply to all intermediate center and high school students of SBCSC.

RULES GOVERNING SCHOOL SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

All students who participate in athletic activities, including student managers, athletic training student aides, paid videographers, statisticians, student athletic workers, and broadcast personnel, will abide by the rules and regulations of the IHSAA, NFHS, NIC, and the South Bend Department of Athletics, including the SBCSC Code of Conduct for Athletic Participation (Code of Conduct). **All rules are effective the entire calendar year.** Your signature and that of your parent or guardian signifies all parties have read and understand the rules and regulations under which participation in athletics may take place.

PERSONAL CONDUCT

Participation on an athletic team or cheerleading squad is a privilege. Participants must conduct themselves with dignity and pride at all times. Captains are expected to set an example for their peers to follow. The Code of Conduct is a guide for students and parents to lead an exemplary lifestyle. We expect all participants to be drug-free, alcohol-free, arrest-free and well-disciplined avoiding any call for school administrators or coaches to apply punishment. However, in the absence of self-discipline, punishment will be assessed according to the offense. Athletes set the tone where sportsmanship is concerned. They are expected to be ambassadors for the sport, the school, the athletic department, and often determine fan behavior. Likewise, any coach or player ejected for an unsportsmanlike act shall be suspended from the next interscholastic contest.

SBCSC AND SCHOOL RULES AND REGULATIONS

Except where modified by this handbook, all SBCSC rules and regulations, which apply to all SBCSC students, are extended to those participating in the SBCSC's athletic programs. Such rules are published in the brochure entitled School Behavior-Rights, Responsibilities, Regulations, and Procedures. Rules of particular importance are those pertaining to smoking, use of alcohol and/or non-prescription drugs, obedience to staff and personal behavior.

Each school may have and publish additional rules and regulations (including more severe rules and regulations) applicable to its students and student-athletes providing these rules and regulations do not conflict with the Code of Conduct and IHSAA Rules and Regulations.

Each coach will have discipline rules for minor infractions, such as inattention, horseplay, tardiness to practice, etc. These rules shall be approved by the school Athletic Director/Athletic Coordinator/Administrator, and will be in effect during the student's entire SBCSC athletic career.

ELIGIBILITY

The student must meet all age, enrollment, academic, and attendance criteria established by the IHSAA (Rule 18). Per IHSAA rules, semester grades are used at the end of a semester. In addition, the student must meet the GPA scholastic requirements of the Board of Trustees of the South Bend Community School Corporation, as follows:

- Grade 9 – Pass 70% of classes and a 1.5 average
- Grade 10 - Pass 70% of classes and a 1.67 average
- Grade 11 - Pass 70% of classes and a 1.85 average
- Grade 12 - Pass 70% of classes and a 2.0 average

The grades received at the end of the first grading period will determine their eligibility during the second grading period. If grades reported at an Eligibility Certification date include both grading period and semester grades, then semester grades take precedence for eligibility purposes.

Any student transferring from another school corporation shall have until the next semester as a grace period to meet the appropriate grade level eligibility GPA standard, and meet any other standards applicable to transfer students under IHSAA or SBCSC rules.

All coaches, teachers, guidance counselors and all other appropriate staff will continue to give assistance to all students unable to meet the above eligibility standard.

Students meeting IHSAA standards but not meeting the above SBCSC standards can maintain eligibility by participating in tutoring sessions/study tables at least twice per week. Students not attending the required sessions will be ineligible for competition that week, but can regain their eligibility by attending the tutoring sessions the following week.

To remain eligible, a student not meeting the above SBCSC eligibility standards will be required to show improvement in that student's overall GPA at the next eligibility certification date.

At the Intermediate Center level, the minimum athletic eligibility requirement is passing 70% of classes based upon the last 9 week grading period unless a semester grade is present, then the semester grade takes precedence for eligibility purposes.

Students:

- Become ineligible for participation on the day they reach their twentieth (20) birthday.
- Must refrain from competing during their sport season, in any non-school programs of the same sport.
- Must be enrolled in the school at which they attend and compete. Student's residence must be within the SBCSC boundaries.
- Must reside with a parent or legal guardian. If a student transfers to a new school (in- or out-of-district), an IHSAA transfer form must be completed. The student will not be eligible to compete at the new school until the transfer has been approved by the IHSAA Commissioner.
- Must not be under an open/active pre-trial diversion agreement with a law enforcement agency. The student will not be eligible until such time as the prosecutor withdraws the charges in the case or indicates definite intent to do so.

FORMS AND RELEASES

Before a student may participate, he/she must have the following information filed with the Athletic Director/Coordinator:

1. The IHSAA Student-Parent Physician Form (Physical)
2. Insurance payment
3. Medical Release & Insurance Form
4. Concussion & Sudden Cardiac Arrest Form
5. Code of Conduct Signature Form
6. Dual Participation Agreement (if needed)

ATTENDANCE

A student is expected to attend all classes. It is a violation of school rules to habitually be absent or tardy from class. Participation may be denied from athletic activities for a period determined by the principal based on a student's absences or tardiness to class. **To be eligible to participate in practice or a contest, a student must be in attendance the entire day of the practice or contest, unless the student has been excused by an Administrator from school for reasons such as doctor's appointment, field trip, college visit or other such documented reason other than illness.** Team members are expected to be present at all practices, team meetings, contests and special occasions unless excused by the head coach. Notifying the coach of your intention to miss practice or contests does not excuse the absence, but the coach has this discretion.

A student suspended in or out-of-school loses participation privileges on the day(s) of suspension (including practice and/or a contest). If the last day of a student's suspension falls on a Friday, the student may, at the discretion of the coach, participate in weekend practice(s) and/or contest(s). A review of the Code of Conduct will determine if further suspension is in order. Misconduct that results in more than one in or out-of-school suspension may constitute habitual misconduct and warrant a Code of Conduct penalty.

COMMITMENT

Commitment to school-organized programs requires students to refrain from missing practice(s) and contests due to participation in non-school activities and clubs. It is not fair to the coaches and team members if students are allowed to determine if and when they show up for school-related activities. In-season activities take precedence.

CARE OF SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

Students are responsible for all equipment issued to them. Lost, damaged or stolen equipment must be paid for by the student or his parents or guardians before participating in another activity. For seniors, obligations must be honored to receive a diploma.

Athletes who fail to return equipment issued to them at the end of each season are subject to the penalties outlined in the Code of Conduct Section I. That is, until the equipment is returned, the student will be suspended from participation in any school-sponsored activity. Also, failure to return equipment is a violation of the IHSAA By Law Rule 5-2-E and results in loss of amateur status in that sport. Suspension penalties are lifted upon return of all equipment issued.

TRANSPORTATION TO ATHLETIC CONTESTS

All participants must ride team buses or vans when provided. Students are expected to be early for departure to prevent the team from being late. Cheerleaders must also ride school transportation as determined by the Athletic Director and/or Administrator. The Athletic Director/Athletic Coordinator, in consultation with the Administrator, may alter these rules in **exigent** circumstances.

INJURED ATHLETE & ILLNESS

In the event of injury or illness, the athlete shall immediately report to the coach and/or appointed school athletic trainer. In cases of extended absences from practice and competition, an athlete is required to practice a prescribed number of days (as set out in IHSAA Rule 9) before returning to competition.

A student athlete who is suspected of suffering a concussion or head injury in a practice or game must be removed from play at the time of injury and may not return to play until he or she has received a written clearance from a licensed health care provider, trained in the evaluation and management of concussion and head injuries. In addition to receiving a written clearance from the licensed health care provider referenced above, a high school student athlete who is suspected of suffering a concussion and is removed from play **must obtain clearance from the SBCSC's designated medical personnel before returning to play**; SBCSC medical personnel have the final say in matters of clearance to play.

QUITTING

Athletes are discouraged from quitting a team during the season. However, an exception can be arranged if the student obtains written permission from the coach of the sport that the student would like to quit prior to joining/participating in the new sport.

TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL DISCIPLINE

Participants are also expected to follow all discipline rules for minor infractions such as inattention to directions, horseplay, tardiness to practice, etc., which will be promulgated by each coach.

SUSPENSION FROM A TEAM OR SQUAD

Temporary suspensions, for a variety of types of misconduct, can be made by the coach, Athletic Director/Athletic Coordinator and/or Administrator. The Athletic Director/Athletic Coordinator or Administrator and coach will confer before action is taken.

[Note: This section specifically exists to reinforce the right of athletic administrators and coaches to suspend players temporarily for offenses that are not part of the Code. These are temporary suspensions where an actual Code suspension might be temporary or permanent.]

Causes for temporary suspensions may include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Grades and/or school attendance.
2. Personal Misconduct (students are ineligible for practice or contests during periods of in- or out-of-school suspension).
3. Unexcused Absences from meetings or practices.
4. Violations of Athletic Policies outlined in the Code of Conduct.
5. Unsportsmanlike Conduct as in verbal or physical attack on a teammate, opponent, contest official, coach, teacher, fan or any other person.
6. Repeated violations of school athletic team policies.

A student may also be suspended during the period in which the coach, Athletic Director/Athletic Coordinator, and/or Administrator investigate whether the student should be removed from a team or activity due to a violation of the Code of Conduct.

The following rules of conduct shall apply to all intermediate and high school students of SBCSC who participate in athletics.

A student will not:

- A. Consume or possess alcoholic beverages.
- B. Use or possess tobacco/tobacco like substances in any form - includes the smoking of tobacco in any form (cigarettes, cigars, pipes, cigarillos, etc.), and the use of electronic devices that emit smoke or vapor (e-cigarettes and related products) or any other product intended to mimic smoking of any product such as hookahs or similar devices.
- C. In addition to the smoking products described above, the use of oral tobacco (including spit and spitless, smokeless, chew and snuff) and nasal tobacco (such as snuff) is prohibited
- D. Use, possess, or distribute controlled substances (e.g., marijuana, cocaine, stimulants, intoxicants, depressants, narcotics, hallucinogens) or drug paraphernalia or misuse any legal substance, including but not limited to prescription drugs, over-the-counter drugs, inhalants, or any other substance or item used to elicit an intoxicating effect.
- E. Engage in illegal activities or inappropriate behavior that dishonor or discredit the school or community. IHSAA By-Law 8-C-8-1 states: *Contestants' conduct, in and out of school, shall be such as (1) not to reflect discredit upon their school or the Association, or (2) not to create a disruptive influence on the discipline, good order, moral or educational environment in the school.*
- F. Engage in hazing or harassment of any kind.
- G. Engage in misconduct in school.
- H. Use the Internet in a fashion that violates the Code of Conduct or is harmful to his/her personal reputation, the reputation of the team, school and/or community.
- I. Otherwise violate the Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct

The SBCSC Director of Athletics may alter the penalties as appropriate for particularly egregious instances of misconduct or for other aggravating or mitigating factors.

All rules are in effect **24 hours per day – 365 days per year** for the entire period of an individual's intermediate and high school eligibility.

SECTION 1 – PENALTIES

Violations of the SBCSC Code of Conduct will result in the imposition of penalties as follows:

A. TOBACCO

(Definition– the use of any tobacco/tobacco-like products, including but not limited to cigarettes, snuff, chew, vaporizers, e-cigs, etc.)

Possession, Consumption or Sale

| Suspension | Additional Consequences |
|--|--|
| 1st Offense: Self Report: No suspension from competition Non-self Report: 15% of season | Tobacco Assessment/Education required at student's expense as well as completion of any recommendation resulting from the Assessment/Education at student's expense. Practice at coach's discretion. |
| 2nd Offense: 50% of season | Same as above plus loss of awards. |
| 3rd Offense: 365 Days | Same as above plus loss of awards. |
| 4th Offense: Life | Possibility of review for reinstatement after 365 days. No practice/loss of awards. |

B. ALCOHOL

Possession/No Consumption

| Suspension | Additional Consequences |
|---|--|
| 1st Offense: Self Report: 15% of season Non-self Report: 25% of season | Alcohol Assessment/Education required at student's expense as well as completion of any recommendation resulting from the Assessment/Education at student's expense. Practice at coach's discretion. |
| 2nd Offense: 365 Days | Same as above and loss of awards. |
| 3rd Offense: Life | Possibility of review for reinstatement after 365 days. No practice/loss of awards. |

Alcohol Consumption

(Definition - the ingestion of any amount of alcohol)

| Suspension | Additional Consequences |
|---|--|
| 1st Offense: Self Report: 25% of season Non-self Report: 50% of season | Alcohol Assessment/Education required at the student's expense as well as completion of any recommendation resulting from the Assessment/Education at student's expense. Loss of awards for non-self report. Practice at coach's discretion. |
| 2nd Offense: 365 Days | Same as above and loss of awards. |
| 3rd Offense: Life | Possibility of review for reinstatement after 365 days. No practice/loss of awards. |

C. ILLEGAL DRUGS, CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, STEROIDS, AND/OR MISUSE OF OTHER SUBSTANCES

(including use of another's prescriptions)

Possession (no consumption) of Illegal Drugs, Controlled Substances, or Steroids

| <u>Suspension</u> | <u>Additional Consequences</u> |
|---|--|
| 1st Offense: Self Report: 25% of season | Assessment/Education required at student's expense as well as completion of any recommendation resulting from the Assessment/Education at student's expense. Practice at coach's discretion. |
| Non-self Report: 50% of season | |
| 2nd Offense: 365 days | Same as above and loss of awards. |
| 3rd Offense: Life | Possibility of review for reinstatement after 365 days. No Practice/loss of awards. |

Consumption/Use/Misuse:

(The ingestion of any amount of illegal drugs or the misuse of any legal substance, including but not limited to prescription drugs, over-the-counter drugs, inhalants, or any other substance or item used to elicit an intoxicating effect)

| <u>Suspension</u> | <u>Additional Consequences</u> |
|---|--|
| 1st Offense: Self Report: 33% of season | Assessment/Education required at student's expense as well as completion of any recommendation resulting from the Assessment/Education at student's expense. Loss of Awards for non-self report. Practice at coach's discretion. |
| Non-self Report: 60% of season | |
| 2nd Offense: 365 Days | Same as above and loss of awards. |
| 3rd Offense: Life | Possibility of review for reinstatement after 365 days. No Practice/loss of awards. |

Selling/Providing of Drugs

(Illegal drugs and/or prescription drugs)

| <u>Suspension</u> | <u>Additional Consequences</u> |
|--|---|
| 1st Offense: 365 days from date of discovery | Assessment/Education required at student's expense as well as completion of any recommendation resulting from the Assessment/Education at student's expense. No practice/ loss of awards. Possibility of review for reinstatement after 365 days. |
| 2nd Offense: Life | |

D. MISCONDUCT THAT RESULTS IN CRIMINAL CHARGES

Students who are cited, arrested, charged, or indicted for unlawful misconduct shall be immediately suspended from all athletics and will be subject to disciplinary consequences under the Code of Conduct even if the charge or indictment does not ultimately result in a conviction. However, if the SBCSC Director of Athletics determines there is sufficient evidence of the student's innocence, a charge alone will not require disciplinary consequences under the Code.

| <u>Suspension</u> | <u>Additional Consequences</u> |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1st Offense: Participant immediately suspended from competition | No Practice. |
| Upon conviction, suspended from the date of occurrence for one (1) calendar year | No Practice/loss of awards. |
| 2nd Offense: Life | No Practice/loss of awards. |

E. OTHER ILLEGAL OR INAPPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES

These are activities that reflect inappropriate behavior and bring dishonor upon the school and the community. It is possible that certain behaviors might not warrant a first offense punishment but would become punishable when they are repeated or become habitual. (Possible examples might include curfew violations or traffic violations.)

| | <u>Suspension</u> | <u>Additional Consequences</u> |
|--------------|--------------------|--|
| 1st Offense: | 10% of the season | Practice at coach's discretion. |
| 2nd Offense: | 25% of the season | Practice at coach's discretion. |
| 3rd Offense: | 50 % of the season | Practice at coach's discretion. Loss of awards. |
| 4th Offense: | Life | Possibility of review for reinstatement after 365 days. No practice/loss of awards. |

NOTE: Determination of an appropriate penalty will be made through consultation between the coach, Athletic Director/Athletic Coordinator and Administrator.

F. PUBLICATIONS On THE Internet, IN Print, or THROUGH Electronic Devices

The widespread use of the internet and other electronic media/devices has made it increasingly clear that this category needs to be addressed. As a result, students (who participate in athletics) who engage in behavior that is made public through written or photographic means, blogs, emails, webpages, etc., and is contrary to the accepted rules and values of the SBCSC, may be subject to discipline. Behaviors that are contrary to the accepted rules and values of the SBCSC include, but are not limited to the following: profanity; bullying; defamatory or threatening language; nudity or partial-nudity; material of a sexual nature or sexual innuendo; promotion of alcohol, drugs, tobacco or other such substances; promotion of gangs, weapons, or violence; and other lewd or socially unacceptable behavior.

| | <u>Suspension</u> | <u>Additional Consequences</u> |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| 1 st Offense: | 30% of the season | Counseling - costs at the student's expense. |
| 2 nd Offense: | 365 days (or appropriate to the offense) | No practice/loss of awards for 2nd & 3rd offense. |
| 3 rd Offense: | Life | |

Athletic Director/Athletic Coordinator/Coach may lessen the aforementioned penalties by 5% in cases of a first offense self-report and sufficient contrition, and may alter the penalties as appropriate for particularly egregious instances irrespective of whether it is the student's first, second, or third offense.

G. STUDENT HAZING AND HARASSMENT

Hazing and harassment are behaviors, by one person towards another that can be insulting, intimidating, humiliating, malicious, degrading, offensive or dangerous. Such behaviors can create negative and uncomfortable feelings for the person, or group of persons, to whom they are directed. Hazing and harassment can take many forms whether physical, verbal, sexual or emotional, and can involve a combination of these elements. Sexual hazing or harassment is unlawful and is a form of sexual discrimination under Title IX of the Educational Amendments Act of 1972.

HAZING / BULLYING / INTIMIDATION / HARASSMENT

In-school or out-of-school - anytime

| | <u>Suspension</u> | <u>Additional Consequences</u> |
|--------------|--|--|
| 1st Offense: | One (1) game/competition, event or activity suspension | Practice at coach's discretion event/ activity suspension. |
| 2nd Offense: | 33% of the season | Practice at coach's discretion. |
| 3rd Offense: | 365 days | Practice at coach's discretion. Loss of awards. |
| 4th Offense: | Life | No practice/loss of awards. |

Athletic Director/Coordinator may alter the penalties as appropriate for particularly egregious instances of hazing and harassment irrespective of whether it is the student's first, second, or third offense.

H. SCHOOL MISCONDUCT

Habitual misconduct in school may necessitate discipline as determined appropriate by the Athletic Director/Athletic Coordinator/Coach. Such misconduct includes but is not limited to the following: cheating, fighting, theft, insubordination, miscellaneous misconduct leading to detention(s), in-school suspensions, or out-of-school suspensions, and violations of any rules as promulgated by the SBCSC.

I. FAILURE TO RETURN SCHOOL OWNED EQUIPMENT/UNIFORMS

Failure to return equipment or uniforms issued by the school when the season for that sport is concluded or when the participation on such team is concluded, shall constitute a violation of IHSAA Rule 5-2-E in the IHSAA By Laws.

For any and all offenses, the participant shall forfeit amateur status in that sport. SBCSC rules dictate ineligibility for participation until all equipment is returned or restitution is made.

Upon full restitution, the participant shall have his/her amateur status in that sport restored by the Athletic Director/Athletic Coordinator as long as there are no other Code of Conduct or discipline issues pending.

Violations under this section do not count toward accumulated Code of Conduct violations. The category stands unto itself with appropriate penalties for any and all violations predetermined by IHSAA rules.

J. WEAPONS

Definition of a weapon, by South Bend School Board Policy #5772:

“The term "weapon" means any object which, in the manner in which it is used, intended to be used, or represented, is capable of inflicting serious bodily harm or property damage, as well as endangering the health or safety of persons. Weapons include, but are not limited to, firearms, Tasers, handguns, stun guns, guns of any type whatsoever, including air and gas-powered guns (whether loaded or unloaded), knives, razors, clubs, electric weapons, chemical weapons, metallic knuckles, martial arts weapons, ammunition, and destructive devices (bombs, incendiary, grenade, Molotov cocktail, rocket with a propellant charge of more than four (4) ounces, etc.). A "knife" is defined as "an instrument that: 1) consists of a sharp edge or sharp pointed blade capable of inflicting cutting, stabbing, or tearing wounds; and 2) is intended to be used as a weapon." I.C.-47-5-2.5(a)“

| | <u>Suspension</u> | <u>Additional Consequences</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 1st Offense: | Participant immediately suspended from competition | No Practice. |
| | Upon conviction of a felony-suspended one year from date of infraction | No Practice/loss of awards. |
| | Upon conviction of a misdemeanor- suspended 50% of season | May Practice/loss of awards. |
| 2nd Offense: | Life | No Practice/loss of awards. |

Use of Non-Conventional Objects as Weapons/“Pseudo Weapons”:
(Intended to inflict harm, but may not be included in definition of Policy #5772)

| | <u>Suspension</u> | <u>Additional Consequences</u> |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| 1 st Offense: | Penalty dependent upon circumstances | No practice until reviewed by SBCSC Director of Athletics. |
| 2 nd Offense: | 365 days (or appropriate to the offense) | No practice/loss of awards for 2nd & 3rd offense. |
| 3 rd Offense: | Life | No Practice/loss of awards. |

SECTION 2 - PARTIES

If a student who participates in athletics attends a party or is present at any other occasion where alcohol or drugs are available to minors, the student must leave the party immediately and must report his or her attendance at the event to the Athletic Director/Coordinator or Administrator before the end of the next school day. If the party or event occurs over the summer, the student has 72 hours to report to any school official or coach. Leaving a detailed voice mail or e-mail is considered a report. A participant failing to report attendance will be judged to have been in possession unless it can be reasonably proven that consumption occurred. **LEAVING MEANS LEAVING IMMEDIATELY.**

SECTION 3 – TRANSFERS

Students who transfer into the SBCSC at the high school level and are subject to disciplinary sanctions that were imposed upon them at their previous school will be subject to sanctions commensurate with the SBCSC Code of Conduct.

SECTION 4 – PROCEDURE FOR IMPOSING PENALTIES

An athlete or participant suspended or otherwise disciplined under this Code of Conduct shall be allowed the due process rights as follows:

When a violation occurs, the student will be given an opportunity for an informal meeting with the Coach, Athletic Director, or Athletic Coordinator in which he/she is entitled to be informed of the allegations and to be provided the opportunity to explain his/her conduct. The student may, at the option of the coach, Athletic Director, or Athletic Coordinator, be required to provide a written explanation of his/her conduct. As soon as possible following the imposition of the suspension (or other disciplinary action), the Athletic Director/Athletic Coordinator shall notify the parent in writing describing: (1) the student's conduct or violation, (2) the reason for the action taken and (3) the length of the suspension. The parent may choose to appeal the decision as described in Section 7 of this document.

SECTION 5 - PARENT (FAN) DECORUM

IHSAA By-Laws – Rule 3, Article 3-6 states:

“The member school’s responsibility for the conduct of its athletic program includes responsibility for the actions of its staff members, its participants, and any other individual or organization actively engaged in activities promoting the athletic interests of the member school. A member school’s “responsibility” includes the responsibility of instituting full and complete team and crowd control measures at all contests in which such member school participates, assuring that the participants, staff and boosters of the member school conduct themselves at all times in a proper and sportsmanlike manner, and assuring full compliance by participants, staff and boosters of the member school of all association rules, including those involving eligibility and undue influence.”

At a time when society is experiencing increased incidents of physical confrontations and unmanaged anger associated with youth activities, the SBCSC insists upon good sportsmanship and proper behavior in order to ensure the safety of students, coaches and fans.

The SBCSC recognizes that the majority of parents and fans set a behavioral example of the highest standard. However, the few who do not, force the SBCSC to address these issues.

Like the standards of expected behavior for SBCSC Coaches' Handbook, student participants (SBCSC Code of Conduct), and non-participant students (School Behavior-Rights, Responsibilities, Regulations, and Procedures), adult fans and parents are expected to adhere to certain standards of behavior.

The SBCSC will not condone or permit inappropriate parental behavior directed toward SBCSC staff or students, the opposing school or any of its representatives, or the game officials. Such behavior by parents can cause the school to suffer severe penalties from the various sanctioning/governing bodies. Inappropriate behavior is embarrassing to the SBCSC and reflects poorly on our values as a community.

The SBCSC supports the rules of the various sanctioning bodies (such as, the IHSAA) and places great emphasis on good sportsmanship. Proper human courtesies, kindness and decorum must apply to all relationships and situations, and sports are no exception. High school athletics exist to build character, allow students to express themselves through physical exertion and skills, and offer entertainment. There is no place for poor behavior toward anyone.

Parents and guardians must understand the following:

1. There is no inherent right to participate in athletics. Coaches will only retain those participants whose skills and attitudes meet the needs of the program, as defined by the coach. Further, the coaches alone will determine who plays and how much.
2. During the time in which parents entrust coaches with their child, coaches will act in the best interests and safety of the child.
3. It is inappropriate to confront a coach with a problem or concern before, during or after a game or practice, or anytime in public. If a parent or guardian has a problem or concern, he or she should schedule a meeting with the coach. This procedure will help avoid conflict at a potentially emotional time. If, after meeting with the coach to discuss the concern, a parent cannot reach satisfactory resolution, he/she may contact the building Athletic Director/Athletic Coordinator.
4. Individual players, playing time, and/or game strategy are not permissible topics of conversation between parents and coaches. Discussing how one can improve as a player is an appropriate topic.
5. Threats and/or derogatory comments about coaches, officials, players or others is inappropriate and will not be tolerated.
6. Profanity at an athletic or other school sponsored event is never acceptable and will not be tolerated.
7. Attending an athletic or other school sponsored event while intoxicated is never acceptable and will not be tolerated.

Parents who violate any of the above standards of decorum may be subject to sanctions by the SBCSC including, but not limited to, the following:

- A. A warning; verbal or written.
- B. Removal from the contest or premises.
- C. Prohibition from contacting team personnel at any time.
- D. Banishment from attendance at athletic events and extra-curricular events for a set period of time or permanently and entry of a no-trespass order. The latter restricts the parent(s) from being on school property for any reason.
- E. Other civil or criminal action.

SECTION 6 – SBCSC CODE PARAMETERS, PROTOCOL AND DEFINITIONS

CODE:

Code Timeline: Because students who participate in athletics are representatives of the SBCSC, all such persons are subject to this Code of Conduct and to high standards of behavior 365 days per year beginning with the date the student enrolls with the SBCSC and continuing until graduation.

School Year: The period beginning after June 30 of each year and ending before July 1 of the following year. IC 20-18-2-17.

Season: Begins the first day of practice as determined by the IHSAA and ends with the last IHSAA tournament. The season equals the total number of contests plus one sectional game.

Participation: A student may not participate in athletic activities during the appeals process unless the Code of Conduct allows for participation in practice. He/she has already been judged to have violated the Code of Conduct and therefore the penalty begins immediately upon his/her meeting with the Coach, Athletic Director, or Athletic Coordinator.

Latitude: The Code of Conduct is understood to allow and afford the SBCSC Director of Athletics/Athletic Director/Athletic Coordinator and Administration certain latitude in dealing with cases having unusual or extenuating circumstances.

Appeals Committee: The powers vested in the committee and the process of Appeal is defined under **Section 7- The Appeals Process**.

PENALTIES:

Penalties: Will not be “rounded up” to a higher number than the actual mathematical computation. Athletic penalties are not served concurrent with school suspensions or jail time. Anyone suspended from school is ineligible, by virtue of the suspension, from school. An athletic penalty can only be applied to periods of eligibility.

Penalty Assessments: Penalties involving contests will be applied to the events on or immediately following the date the penalty is assessed, whichever comes first. There shall be no delay in assessing penalties.

Computing Penalties: The “season” shall consist of all the regular season games and tournaments plus the first IHSAA tournament game for a high school athlete.

Reinstatement Process: A student may be reinstated with full privileges after serving his/her designated penalty and upon successful completion of a school approved rehabilitation education program at the student’s expense.

Suspensions: Are to begin immediately following the offense. A suspension that cannot be completed in that season shall be continued into the student’s next season. A coach retains the right to suspend (temporarily or indefinitely) or to dismiss from the team, any athlete who has committed an offense rendering his/her to be a detriment to the team, or team morale, regardless of whether the infraction is contained in this book.

In-School and Out-Of-School Suspensions: A student suspended in– or out-of-school loses participation privileges on the day(s) of suspension (including practice and/or a contest). If the last day of a student’s suspension falls on a Friday, the student may, at the discretion of the coach, participate in weekend practice(s) and/or contest(s). A review of the Code of Conduct will determine if further suspension is in order. Misconduct that results in more than one in or out-of-school suspension may constitute habitual misconduct and warrant a Code of Conduct penalty.

Life Penalties: A student receiving a “life” penalty may not practice. Any possibility of review for reinstatement will be conducted by the Director of Athletics.

VIOLATIONS:

Violations: A violation that causes a suspension from 50% or more of the season also carries an automatic loss of letter and individual awards for that season, including school sponsored awards and awards that require nomination by school personnel.

- **Intermediate Center** - shall not be carried over to high school.
- **High School** – are cumulative.

Subsequent Offenses/Same Category: In the event that a student-athlete violates the Code of Conduct (in the same category) during his/her career, the next listed offense and penalty shall apply.

Unspecified Violations: In the event there is an apparent offense, but it falls into an “uncovered” or “gray” area, then the Athletic Director/Athletic Coordinator/Administrator shall, after seeking any possible parallels or common and standard procedures in such cases, evaluate the evidence and administer a penalty commensurate with the offense.

Coaches’ Discretion: It is a time-honored right of a coach to suspend temporarily or indefinitely or dismiss from the team an athlete or athletes, who have committed an offense rendering them to be a detriment to the team regardless of whether the infraction is listed in this Code of Conduct.

Subsequent Offenses/Different Category: If a student-athlete violates the Code of Conduct again, but in a different category than the previous offense(s), the Athletic Director/Athletic Coordinator/Administrator shall weigh the circumstances and evaluate the case in a manner consistent with the seriousness of the individual offenses. Punishment rendered will be commensurate with the circumstances.

Self-Reporting: Is defined as notifying a Coach, Athletic Director/Athletic Coordinator, or Administrator on the next school day after the infraction. If the infraction occurs over the summer, the student has **72 hours** in which to notify a Coach, Athletic Director/Athletic Coordinator, or Administrator. A student-athlete may self-report only one time (on the first offense of their career) in order to receive a lesser penalty. However, an individual who is “clean” or without violation for two years, and who then commits a violation, may self-report with the understanding that the Coach/Athletic Director/Athletic Coordinator/Administrator **may** consider a reduced penalty according to the motivation and sincerity of the self-report. Such a case must be cleared with the SBCSC Director of Athletics

ASSESSMENT:

Drug and Alcohol Assessment: Refers to an evaluation conducted by a competent professional in connection with a program approved by the SBCSC. Upon completion of the assessment, the professional will submit a report to the designated school official. This report will include a certificate of completion and a summary of in writing to the SBCSC Director of Athletic

Section 7 – The APPEALS PROCESS

Following notification of a penalty for a violation of the SBCSC Code of Conduct, the student and/or his or her parents or guardians may request an appeal.

Requests for an appeal must be made in writing to the SBCSC Director of Athletics within five (5) school days of receiving notice of the penalty.

1. Within a reasonable time after the receipt of a request for an appeal, the SBCSC Director of Athletics/designee shall convene a meeting of an Appeals Committee. The Appeals Committee shall consist of at least 3 members (active/retired) from following categories: the SBCSC Director of Athletics, Building Principal, Assistant Principal, high-ranking SBCSC administrator, Athletic Director/Coordinator.
2. The SBCSC Director of Athletics/designee shall direct the meeting of the Appeals Committee.
3. The SBCSC Director of Athletics/designee will conduct the meeting in an informal manner designed to bring out salient issues. This meeting is closed to the public and the SBCSC Director of Athletics/designee may bar anyone from attending the meeting.
4. If the student fails to appear in person or by representative at the meeting, the Director of Athletics/designee shall make his/her report based on the information presented by the Building Principal or other Administrator, and the student has no further right to a meeting under the appeals process.
5. The Appeals Committee shall render a decision in the matter based on the record and any evidence offered by the student and accepted by the Committee and shall notify the school authorities, the student and the parents or guardians within a reasonable time following the close of the appeals meeting.
6. The Appeals Committee may uphold, modify or reject the findings of and decision of the coach, , Athletic Director/Coordinator but retains the right to impose a punishment more severe than that initially imposed.

Final Appeal

The Appeals Committee shall make a recommendation to the Superintendent.