

PHILOSOPHY OF STUDENT ATHLETICS

The Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) recognizes the importance of athletics as an integral component of a students' complete educational development. As such, we believe that all students should have an opportunity to participate in some form of interscholastic athletics and that such participation should encourage positive scholastic and social growth and achievement. All participants and teams will represent the school and community in a positive manner and will reflect the dedication and hard work that is required to compete and be successful. Success will not be measured by records achieved by teams or individuals, but rather by the knowledge that each participant gave their best effort and prepared for each contest to the best of their ability. The Sacramento City Unified School District realizes that an effective interscholastic athletic program is the product of responsible cooperation between its four major components: the student-athlete, the coaching staff, the parents, and the site/district administration.

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

Participation in school sports programs is a privilege, not a right. To earn that privilege, students must abide by the rules and they must conduct themselves as positive role models who exemplify good character. The school intends to maintain programs that are well managed and meet the needs of the students and the school community. The SCUSD athletic program will promote sportsmanship, foster the development of good character by enhancing the academic, emotional, social, physical, and ethical development of students, and teach positive life skills that will help students become personally successful and socially responsible. Through their participation as a member of an athletic team or program, students are considered representatives of SCUSD, and as such, are expected to maintain exemplary behavior and citizenship. All students will be held responsible for any involvement in acts specified in the [Annual Parent and Student Rights Notification and Standards of Behavior Handbook](#) whether on campus, at school activities, or in the community.

Participation in the athletic program requires adherence to the highest standards of good sportsmanship. Aspects of good sportsmanship include ensuring fairness in competition and exhibiting respect for the people and institutions associated with athletic contests. In order to promote fairness in competition, SCUSD Athletics follows the 16 Principles of "[Pursuing Victory with Honor](#)" as the operating guidelines for all athletics. Athletes of the SCUSD will be required to comply with the rules of each sport and to ensure that fairness in competition is not limited by their actions in any way.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

The role of the parent in the education of a student is vital. The support shown in the home is often manifested in the ability of the student to accept the opportunities presented at school and in life.

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There is a value system—established in the home and nurtured in the school – that young people are developing. Their involvement in the classroom and other activities contributes to that development. Trustworthiness, citizenship, caring, fairness and respect are lifetime values taught through athletics. These are the principles of good sportsmanship and character. With them, the spirit of competition thrives, fueled by honest rivalry, courteous relations and graceful acceptance of the results.

Parents/guardians of student-athletes at our school must:

1. I will encourage my child to respect the game, play fairly and follow all its rules and regulations.
2. I will encourage my child to show respect for the authority of the game officials and of the Program by demonstrating positive support for the officials and coaches.
3. I will demonstrate good sportsmanship before, during and after the games and I will NOT yell or speak to officials or coaches during games, on the field of play or in front of players.
4. I will place the well being of my child before a personal desire to win.
5. I will be courteous to our opponents and treat all the players, parents, spectators and coaches with respect.
6. I will be modest when our team is successful and be gracious in their defeat.
7. I will allow the coaches to coach their team and I will not attempt to coach from the sidelines during practices or games.
8. I will always show respect for all the volunteers that work in the Snack Shack, on the field or with my team.
9. I will advocate for a sports environment for my child that is free of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. I will not use drugs, tobacco or alcohol.
10. I will not use any abusive, offensive or vulgar language on or off the field or in view of any players or spectators.

Parents/Guardians can have a major influence on your student's attitude about academics and athletics. The leadership role you take will help influence your child, and our community, for years to come.

Violation of the above code of conduct could result in one or more of the following consequences: a warning, removal from the venue, suspension, or further discipline to be determined by the administration.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC STUDENT-ATHLETES

Interscholastic athletic competition should demonstrate high standards of ethics and sportsmanship and promote the development of good character and other important life skills. The highest potential of sports is achieved when participants are committed to pursuing victory with honor according to six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. This Code applies to all student-athletes involved in interscholastic sports in the SCUSD. I (student) understand that, in order to participate in middle school athletics, I (student) must act in accord with the following:

1. I will respect the game, play fairly and follow all its rules and regulations.
2. I will show respect for the authority of the game officials and of the Program.
3. I will demonstrate good sportsmanship before, during and after the games.
4. I will help the parents, fans, and spectators understand the Program philosophy so that they can watch and enjoy the game.
5. I will be courteous to our opponents and treat all the players and coaches with respect.
6. I will be modest when I am successful and be gracious in defeat.
7. I will respect the privilege of using the public facilities and any equipment of the Program or my team.
8. I will always show respect for all the volunteers that work in the snack shack, on the field or with my team.
9. I will always complete my homework and household chores so that I can continue to play sports.
10. I will not use drugs, tobacco or alcohol.
11. I will not use any abusive, offensive or vulgar language on or off the field.
12. I will always try my best and I will never give up.

Participation on a school athletic team is a privilege. Suspension or termination of the participation privilege is within the sole discretion of the school administration.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

For Academic Eligibility, Grades of Progress and Grades of Record are defined as:

1. Grades of Progress: grades assigned to a student but not officially recorded on a transcript; on a traditional semester calendar these are “quarter” grades issued after the first 9 weeks of each semester;
2. Grades of Record: grades assigned to a student and officially recorded on a transcript. Student-athletes who represent an SCUSD school in any athletic competition must meet the following requirements:

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- a. Earn a 2.0 GPA in 7-8 courses for Grades of Record prior to competition.
- b. Earn a 2.0 GPA with no more than one fail in 7-8 courses for Grades of Progress prior to competition. (see continuing eligibility below)
- c. Maintain standards of satisfactory citizenship.
- d. Maintain a satisfactory attendance record.

* Schools reserve the right to restrict try-outs to only academically eligible students. Note: Exceptions may be made to the GPA requirements above by process

SELECTION OF TEAMS

Prior to the season, the coaches will hold tryouts in order to select team members. Students must meet all academic attendance requirements in order to try out. Tryouts and "cuts": are probably the most painful experience for coaches, students, and parents/guardians alike. While we would like to accommodate every student who wants to participate in a sport, limitations in facilities, coaches, student safety, and other resources make tryouts and "cuts" necessary. Each coach is responsible for establishing guidelines for tryouts and "cuts" in his/her sports. All related decisions are at the discretion of the coach. SCUSD Middle School sports are competitive in nature. Team rosters and playing time are at the discretion of the coach.

CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility is determined by the following:

1. A student is eligible if on any Grade of Record the student has maintained a minimum 2.0 GPA.
2. If on any Grade of Progress the student has a 2.0 GPA but more than one fail, the student is ineligible to compete in any contests beginning the Monday after grades are published. That student becomes eligible to compete as soon as the student returns a grade clearance form or the Athletic Director receives electronic communication from the teacher, signifying that the student is earning a passing grade in one of the fails.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Attending all classes is a high priority for all student-athletes: athletic events may require students to miss classes during the week making it very important for all student-athletes to establish good attendance patterns and communicate with their teachers about assignments to be done.

1. Students must attend 50% (minimum) of the school day, excluding lunch, in order to participate in practice or competition that day.
2. Student-athletes in violation of this rule, as it relates to competitions, will be suspended for a minimum of one contest or game. (Subject to review with head coach and athletic director.)

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

1. To be eligible for athletic participation, each student must complete and submit the online application accessible at homecampus.com.
 - a. School administration will review the application and notify the student and parent of clearance to participate in athletics.
2. Instructions for completion and submission of home campus application is [at this link](#).

Athletes must have a yearly physical from a qualified physician who completes, signs, and stamps the SCUSD Sports Physical Form. Open form here: [SCUSD Physical Form](#). The signed and stamped form must be uploaded into the home campus account in order to be considered for athletic clearance.

If a student is excused from Physical Education for medical reasons, the student may not participate in after school sports until they are cleared for participation in both PE and the sport.

GENERAL BEHAVIOR

Student-athletes must comply with all rules and regulations as specified by California Education Code, California Penal Code, and Sacramento City Unified School District Board Policy and Administrative Regulations.

Profanity, unsportsmanlike conduct, throwing of equipment or any similar displays of immaturity, and disrespect to any person or institution will not be tolerated. Athletes accept responsibility for their actions both on and off the field. An athlete's language and behavior should not embarrass himself/herself, the team, the school, the district, or the community. Defiant behavior and back-talk toward any coach, school official, or game official will also not be tolerated. Any disagreements should be handled in private adult discussions.

Violation of any of the above behavior guidelines could result in one or more of the following consequences: benching, suspension, or dismissal from the team.

BEHAVIOR/SPEECH PROVISIONS – AND RELATIONSHIP TO SOCIAL MEDIA

Team members should be respectful of other team members, school administrators, the coaches, other students, and parents at all times. Team members are expected to maintain a positive attitude acceptable for the environment. Coaches may take appropriate corrective action where speech, conduct or electronic acts by a team member, whether taking place during a team, team-related, school, or school-related activity or event, or taking place away from school grounds or school or team activities, has a direct disruptive or detrimental effect on, or seriously threatens the discipline, environment, safety or general welfare of the program, other team members, the coaches, or other students, faculty, staff and/or administrators of the District.

UNREST PLANS

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If a physical conflict should occur on the playing field/court during a contest, the following action will take place. All athletes in the sideline/bench area will remain there, and all athletes on the field/court are to move immediately to the sideline/bench area. All parents/guardians, fans, etc., are to remain in the stands or in the sideline/bench area if there are no stands. No unsportsmanlike words or actions are to come from any players, fans, or coaches. Violation of the above policy by a student can result in disciplinary action from both the school administration and the Athletic Department. It is the responsibility of every coach to inform, demonstrate, and practice the above action plan.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR DISCIPLINE CONSEQUENCES

Student-athletes, performers or competitors involved in a fight, while in uniform and/or at a performance/competition will have the following consequences:

First Offense - One game or performance suspension and possibly school suspension;

Second Offense - Complete removal from the team and possibly school suspension;

Each situation will be evaluated on an individual basis by the administration. Input will be provided by the appropriate coach or advisor.

COMMUNICATION

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 establish a process for communication. 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 the communication process a productive and positive experience.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT GUIDELINES

1. Parents can use this time to ask questions and obtain information.
2. The coach will discuss what the student-athlete needs to work in order to improve but, not necessarily playing time.
3. The coach will only talk to a parent/guardian about his/her own child.
4. If the guidelines are not adhered to, the discussion will be terminated.
5. If satisfaction is not obtained, the parent/guardian should then follow the instructions under Parent Complaints or Concerns.
6. 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.

These are not full and complete statements regarding the Uniform Complaint Procedure or the District's nondiscrimination policies. Please refer to the District's [Annual Parent and Student Rights Notification and Standards of Behavior Handbook](#) for more detailed information on these policies and procedures.

Nondiscrimination Statement:

The Sacramento City Unified School District does not discriminate on the basis of a person's actual or perceived ancestry, color, ethnic group identification, national origin, race, immigration status, religion, sex, gender, gender expression, gender identity, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, or physical and /or mental disability in any of its policies, practices, procedures, programs or activities. More detailed information regarding the District's prohibition of discrimination or harassment is contained in the Legal Rights section of the [Sacramento City Unified School District Parent and Student Handbook](#). Parents, students and staff should immediately report incidents of discrimination or harassment to the Principal or designee.

Title IX Guidance Statement: The Sacramento Unified School District prohibits discrimination, intimidation, harassment (including sexual harassment) or bullying based on a person's actual or perceived ancestry, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, immigration status, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or association with a person or a group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. Complaints alleging noncompliance with this policy should be directed to the school principal or the district office. Appeals may be made to the district's Title IX Officer.

Uniform Complaint Procedure

It is the goal of the Sacramento City Unified School District to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations governing educational programs. The District shall follow the Uniform Complaint Procedure when addressing complaints alleging unlawful discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived ancestry, color, ethnic group identification, national origin, race, religion, sex, gender (including sexual harassment), sexual orientation, or physical and/or mental disability in any program or activity that receives or benefits from state financial assistance or for the alleged failure to comply with state or federal law when addressing complaints regarding adult basic education, consolidated categorical aid programs, migrant education, vocational education, child care and development programs, child nutrition programs and special education programs. More detailed information regarding the Uniform Complaint Procedure is contained in the [Sacramento City Unified School District Parent and Student Handbook](#).

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Receipt of Information on Parents Legal Rights As required by law, this handbook is to notify you of your legal rights and responsibilities.

"I hereby acknowledge that I have received information from the Sacramento City Unified School District about the legal rights of parents and guardians with children in California public schools in regards to Athletics."

Name of Student: _____

School: _____

Signature of student: _____ Date: _____

Signature of parent or guardian: _____ Date: _____

Please sign and return this form to your school's Athletic Director