

Skaneateles Central School District
Skaneateles, NY 13152

STUDENT INVOLVED IN ATHLETICS
Board Revised (and adopted) February 7,
2017

Students who choose to be involved in school-sponsored athletics undertake a responsibility to the school and to the other members of their team. As a member of that team they represent not only themselves and their families, but their team and their school as a whole. Their behavior directly affects others and the performance of the group as a whole. Therefore it is in the best interest of the student and the school to hold such students to a higher standard of conduct, even during after school hours. These standards are in the areas of training, sportsmanship, citizenship and academics. The goal of this policy is the protection and the well-being of students.

Parents and students are to become familiar with the provisions of this code and will sign a statement that they have done so and that students will adhere to the code.

School officials are vigilant in attempting to fairly and comprehensively administer this code. However, when incidents are alleged to happen outside of school, it is necessary for school officials to have clear evidence of misconduct before they can impose penalties.

Application of this Code:

The following prohibitions and penalties deal with students involved in athletics and pertain to the entire sports season provided, however, that a student athlete may be disciplined for out-of-season conduct that (1) is a criminal offense, or (2) causes such adverse notoriety and is of such nature that it has, in the judgment of the District, the potential to negatively impact the educational program and , unless addressed, to create the impression among other students that it is condoned by the District. In either of these events, the administration may impose such penalty as it deems appropriate under the circumstances.

1. Prohibited behaviors

a. Training Standards

- 1) Consuming an alcoholic beverage at any time on or off campus except in a religious context. Alcoholic beverages shall mean and include but not be limited to alcohol, spirits, liquor, wine, beer, and cider having alcoholic content.
- 2) The use, possession, sale or gift of any controlled substance including marijuana, or any instruments for the use of such substances such as a pipe, syringe or paraphernalia at any time. Excepted is any drug taken in accordance with the school's policy on medications.

- 3) Smoking a cigarette, cigar or pipe, or using chewing or smokeless tobacco at any time.
- 4) Supplying alcohol or drugs to an individual under the age of 21, or hosting a party at the student's home or elsewhere in which alcohol or drugs are used.
- 5) ***Attendance at a party or gathering where alcohol or drugs are being illegally consumed: If a student-athlete attends a party where alcohol or drugs are being illegally dispensed, the student-athlete is expected to act responsibly by leaving immediately.***
Note: Athletes should encourage as many classmates as possible to leave with them.

“Attendance” at such parties is a show of support for this type of behavior. If a student athlete is found to be in “attendance” at such a gathering, the student athlete will be subject to the “Range of Penalties” found in Part 2(a) of this Code.

The intent of the “attendance at a party” is not to deny participation with adult family members at gatherings such as weddings, anniversaries or other family events.

- 6) **For those student athletes who are determined to have organized, facilitated, promoted, or hosted any gathering or social event where alcohol or drugs were known to be available or used, Administration reserves the right to impose additional consequences. The minimum consequence imposed will be a doubling of the penalty.**

b. Citizenship Standards

- 1) Any act of fighting or violence, including those not covered by NYSPHSAA Section III rules.
- 2) Any act of vandalism.
- 3) Any act of criminal or illegal behavior.
- 4) Any act of hazing.

c. Sportsmanship Standards

- 1) Failure to adhere to the Universal Sportsmanship Standards, which include, but are not limited to:
 - **Showing respect for the opponent at all times.** Accept the responsibility and privilege of representing your school and community as a student athlete.
 - **Showing respect for the officials at all times.** Sportsmanship implies the willingness to accept and abide by the decisions of the officials.

- **Showing respect for the coaches at all times.** Sportsmanship implies the willingness to comply with the reasonable directions of the coach.
- **Knowing, understanding and appreciating the rules of the contest.** Sportsmanship suggests the importance of conforming to the spirit as well as the letter of the rules.
- **Maintaining self-control at all times.** Play fair; accept defeat without complaint and victory without boasting.

2) Each coach can devise additional rules governing participation in the particular sports, penalties for failure to comply with those rules, or with the coach's directions. These rules may not address the same areas already addressed by the Athletic Code, but may be additional reasonable rules. The Athletic Director will approve these rules prior to distribution to students.

- 3) A student may not quit a team during a sports season for the purpose of joining another team that season. Exceptions to this rule require the agreement of the two coaches, the student, the parent, and the Athletic Director.

d. Academic Standards

- 1) Failing two or more courses in a marking period.

2. Range of Penalties

- a. Training Standards (applicable throughout the student’s Middle School and High School career, with prior offenses expunged at the beginning of grade 9; cumulative throughout a student’s high school career. If the penalty spans more than one sports season, the length of the suspension will be prorated to the number of games in each of the sports.)

- 1) First training offense - The student will be suspended for 25% of the games in the regular season. The administrator will have the option of reducing the penalty by up to two (2) games in isolated circumstances. If the infraction occurs during school or at a school-sponsored function in which penalties from the School Code of Conduct are imposed, the Athletic Code penalties will begin after the school penalties are over. The student must complete a school-approved drug/alcohol evaluation program.
- 2) Second overall offense - The student will be suspended for the remainder of the sport season or two (2) months, whichever is longer. If the season ends during the suspension, the suspension will resume on the date of the first contest of the athlete’s next sport season. He/ She must complete a school approved drug/alcohol evaluation program or other related program.
- 3) Third overall offense – The student will be suspended for any sport for one calendar year. He/ She must complete a school-approved drug/alcohol evaluation program or other related program.
- 4) Fourth overall offense – The student will be suspended from participation in any high school athletic program for the remainder of his/ her enrollment in Skaneateles High School.

b. Citizenship Standards, Sportsmanship Standards

Offense *	Minimum **	Maximum
First	Warning	Suspension for Calendar Year
Repeat *	One Game Suspension	Suspension from all Sports Activities

- 1) If fighting during a contest, there are NYSPHSAA Section III rules that govern minimum penalties. A student may be subject to both NYSPHSAA and school penalties. Penalties will run consecutively rather than concurrently.

* see above #2, #3, and #4 regarding repeated offenses in any area. Offenses involving notoriety or criminal activity may result in more serious consequences.

** A coach may directly impose other penalties for minor violations as stated in his/ her approved rules.

c. Academic Standards

- 1) A student who is failing two courses at the end of a marking period will be placed on academic probation.

Academic Probation requires a student to perform satisfactorily on the following for each class she/he is failing: consistently arriving on time to class; turning in all homework and class work; participating appropriately in class; and seeking extra help when appropriate (e.g., after school, study hall, tutoring.)

Students will be given an academic probation sheet as soon as failures have been identified at the end of each marking period. Students must return sheets weekly by the date identified on the sheet. Failure to turn in sheets will result in an automatic mark of unsatisfactory. Any mark of unsatisfactory will result in the student being ineligible the following week. The Athletic Director will notify coaches and parents if the student is not eligible to participate in athletics for the upcoming week.

3. Procedures to be used when there is a suspected violation of this section

a. Training Standards, Citizenship Standards, Sportsmanship Standards

- 1) Suspected violations will be reported to the Athletic Director, who will investigate the report and make determination.
- 2) The student and persons(s) in parental relationship to the student will be informed in writing of the violation and proposed penalty.
- 3) The students and/or persons(s) in parental relationship may request a meeting with the Athletic Director, Principal, and/or Coach to clarify and discuss the basis on which the violation was found and the penalty which is being considered.
- 4) If unsatisfied, the student and or person(s) in parental relationship may appeal to the Superintendent of Schools.

5) If unsatisfied the student and or person in parental relation may appeal to the Board of Education.

b. Academic Standards

- 1) The Athletic Director will monitor athletic teams and inform coaches in writing of the status of their players each marking period.
- 2) The Athletic Director will inform students in writing of changes in their eligibility status each marking period.