

SOUTH ORANGETOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

The Athletic Code of Conduct consists of both academic and behavioral requirements. Participation on any athletic team is contingent upon the student's willingness to commit to its provisions as evidenced by his/her completing and signing an official letter of commitment.

Academic Eligibility

Students are eligible to participate on an athletic team unless they are failing two (2) or more subjects at the time of report cards. Students not meeting requirements will be placed on a two week probationary period during which improvement must be demonstrated in either effort or achievement. Failure to show positive improvement by the close of the probationary period will result in a penalty at the First Offense level as defined in the Athletic Code of Conduct. Subsequent failure will result in progressive discipline under this Code.

Other Eligibility Requirements

In addition to the academic requirements outlined above, and as a further requirement for participation on any interscholastic team, student athletes are required to avoid any action(s) or participate in any activity which might bring embarrassment or any unfavorable view on the athlete, his/her teammates, coaches, family, school or community. This includes classroom / in-school and out of school behavior. Alleged violation(s) of this prohibition(s) will be subject to review and action under the code. Examples of some behaviors which would be considered as violations of the Athletic Code of Conduct are made part of the commitment letter to be signed by both the athlete and parent.

Section Seven of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association handbook regarding eligibility standards states that *"A student is no longer eligible to represent the school in that sport in that season if the student participates in practice or competition with or against any college athletic squad during that season."* This infraction will also result in the interscholastic team forfeiting all victories in which implicated student participated.

Participation in interscholastic athletics on any TZHS or SOMS athletic team requires a great time commitment (six days a week on varsity teams). If a student athlete cannot make the full commitment or decides to play on an outside team over his/her school team during the same season, he or she may become ineligible to participate on the school team. If you choose to be on a South Orangetown School District athletic team South Orangetown School District must come first!

Attendance: Illegal absences (cuts) are counted on a weekly basis and are cumulative for the year. Students who cut two classes in any one week will be placed on probation. Five (5) or more cuts during the season will result in ineligibility for 10% of scheduled contests. Should cutting continue, the student-athlete will be ineligible for the remainder of the sports season. Any period of ineligibility that is not completed during the season will be carried over into the next season in which that student-athlete participates in an interscholastic sport.

If a student is absent from school, he/she will not be eligible to participate that same day in any practices, scrimmages or contests. Exception: Prior consent of the Athletic Director, Principal or Assistant Principal due to extenuating circumstances (possible examples; school academic team competition, unforeseen emergencies, etc.). This consent will be considered on a case by case basis and will be given at the administrator's discretion.

Application of the Code

The Code will apply to each student athlete for one calendar year (including summer) from the date of his/her most recent signature and will be in effect at all times, in all locations, including non-school activities. Violations of the Code will result in penalties as determined formally by the Director of Physical Education and Athletics. Each coach also has the prerogative to establish and promulgate additional guidelines specific to his/her particular team.

Penalties

In determining appropriate penalties, the Director of Physical Education and Athletics shall be guided as follows:

First Offense

1. Effective on the date when penalties under the code are imposed, the athlete will be placed on probation for one calendar year.
2. During the period of probation, the athlete will be expected to practice with the team (unless directed otherwise by the coach), but will not be allowed to participate in the team's scheduled competitions according to the eligibility chart. For example, a player on a team with a 16-game schedule found guilty of smoking during the summer would be expected to practice with the team but would not be permitted to participate in the first four scheduled contests. Scrimmages **are not** considered scheduled contests.
3. Penalties which cannot be served during the sport season in which they are imposed will be carried over for completion in the next sports season in which the athlete participates. The penalty assigned will be adjusted proportionately based on the number of regular season scheduled contests in the subsequent season.

Second Offense

If a second offense occurs during the probationary period, all provisions set forth in the first offense will apply. However, the games penalty will be increased according to the eligibility chart. In addition, a new probationary period of one calendar year will be assigned, beginning on the date the second penalty is imposed. For a second offense within the same sport season, the athlete will be suspended for the remainder of the season.

Third Offense

If a third offense occurs during the new probationary period, the athlete shall be removed from participation in **all** interscholastic athletics for one calendar year beginning on the date the penalty for the third offense is imposed.

ELIGIBILITY CHART

# Of Regular Season Scheduled Contests	Contest Penalty	
	First Offense	Second Offense
8	2	4
9	2	4
10	2	4
11	2	4
12	3	6
13	3	6
14	3	6
15	3	6
16	4	8
17	4	8
18	4	8
19	4	8
20	5	10
21	5	10
22	5	10
23	5	10
24	6	12

It should be noted, notwithstanding the above chart of penalties, that the facts of an incident may warrant immediate removal from the team if the Director of Physical Education and Athletics and the administration believe that the offense committed by the athlete warrants such action. In the event that the Athletic Code of Conduct or other school policies or procedures do not cover situations that arise, the administration reserves the right to establish such rules, conditions, and penalties to respond effectively to unanticipated or unique circumstances. A single violation may be deemed severe enough by school administration as to warrant the enforcement of the single violation as if it were a second or third violation

Offenses Resulting in Arrest or the Filing of Formal Charges in Court

An athlete who participates in activities resulting in his/her arrest or formal charges being filed in Court may face additional penalties under this Code. If the District has adequate and competent evidence that the student participated in the offense for which he or she is charged, a penalty may be imposed pursuant to this Code prior to completion of the criminal proceeding. If the District does not have such evidence and the student is convicted of a crime, the penalty pursuant to this Code will be imposed upon conviction. In the latter case, the athlete may continue to participate in his/her sport until resolution of the matter by the judicial system.

Due Process

Prior to imposition of any penalty under the Code, the Director of Physical Education and Athletics will notify the athlete of the nature of the infraction and the student will be given an opportunity to explain his or her side of the story.

Appeal Procedure

The student and/or parent/guardian have the right to appeal penalties imposed under the Code to the school principal and Director of Physical Education and Athletics. Appeals must be made in writing within three school days of assignment of a penalty for a code violation. The Director will then form a committee and consider the appeal. The committee will consist of the Director, an assistant principal and a member of the athletic department. The Director will respond with a decision within five school days after receipt of the letter of appeal.

Examples of Behaviors Which Violate the Code (Not intended to be all inclusive)

- **Possession and/or Use of Drugs or Alcohol** - The possession or use of drugs, drug paraphernalia or alcohol or the consumption of drugs or alcohol at any time is strictly prohibited.
- **Possession and/or Use of Tobacco Products** - The possession or use of tobacco products is strictly prohibited.
- **Hosting of Drinking/Drug Parties** - Student athletes are prohibited from hosting/attending a party that involves alcohol, drugs, marijuana or other controlled substances.
- **Attendance** - The practice of students staying home on school days to rest for events that day or night is unacceptable. A student who misses practice the day before a contest is ineligible for said contest if absence is unexcused.
- **SOCSD Code of Conduct Violations** - Any violations of the SOCSD Student Code of Conduct resulting in an internal or an out-of-school suspension will result in progressive levels of discipline under this Code.
- **Hazing/Initiation Ceremony** – SOCSD interscholastic coaches will not permit, nor will SOCSD student athletes stage, any type of “initiation ceremony” or hazing for athletes at any time and on any level. This prohibition includes On-Line or Internet harassment, any athlete giving other athletes haircuts, shaving other athletes, locker/shower pranks, etc.
- **Poor Sportsmanship** - Student athletes, whether participants or spectators, will observe courteous behavior during all sporting events. Booing, whistling, name calling, obscene gestures, fighting or arguing with the referee etc. will not be tolerated.
- **Stealing** - Stealing of any kind, including athletic clothing belonging to SOCSD or our opponents, will not be tolerated.
- **Vandalism or Property Destruction** - Vandalism or property destruction are Level Three infractions in the SOCSD Student Code of Conduct. These offenses may result in internal or external suspension and appropriate penalties for violation of the Athletic Code.

**SOUTH ORANGETOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENT ATHLETES REGULATION
COMMITMENT LETTER**

Dear SOCSO Student Athlete and Parent:

Participation on a South Orangetown Central School District Athletic Team is a privilege, not a right. This privilege should elicit great pride in both the student athlete and his/her family. It is also a responsibility which requires an extra commitment, both academic and otherwise, by those who wear our school colors and represent their teammates, coaches, school, and community. Standards of behavior are necessarily high and a willingness to live up to them is a condition for participation. Consistent with these standards, and as a continuing condition of eligibility, student athletes are required to meet prescribed academic standards and sign this letter of commitment. The student athlete's signature, along with that of his/her parent/guardian, indicates they both recognize and understand this responsibility and that the student athlete agrees to adhere to the basic concepts of good citizenship, proper training regulations and those positive examples with which every athlete should be identified.

Sincerely,
Liam T. Frawley
Director of Athletics and Physical Education

Student Athlete Name (PRINT) _____

SPORT _____

Your signature indicates you have read and understand the South Orangetown Central School District Athletic Code of Conduct and give your permission for your child to participate in our program.

Signature of Parent _____

Date _____

Your signature indicates you have read, understand, and agree to abide by the intent and the conditions of the South Orangetown Central School District Athletic Code of Conduct.

Signature of Student-Athlete _____

Date _____

**South Orangetown Central School District
Photo Release and Authorization**

Student's Name: _____

Grade: _____

I hereby give permission for photos of my child (children) to be published on the SOCSD / Tappan Zee HS athletic website.

I understand that a school official will be present each time photos are taken of school activities and that student-athletes will be identified by name and grade only, and that addresses are never released.

I understand that this approval will remain in effect for the current school year in the South Orangetown Central School District and that photos will only be used in conjunction with the SOCSD / Tappan Zee HS athletic website.

Parent/Guardian printed name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date