

SHARPSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



ATHLETIC HANDBOOK 2019-2020

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PREFACE

Success in athletics can be attributed to a combination of factors, such as: good coaching techniques, discipline, and the ability to handle the students. This Handbook contains information that should be carefully read and followed by all coaches. In addition to the rules and regulations governing each sport, it contains statements, which if practiced consistently by all coaches will result in a successful program. If athletes learn nothing more from their coaches than organization and discipline, they can be successful in life's ventures. We do no favors for athletes or the team by bending the rules. This only leads to resentment on the part of the athletes who are giving one hundred percent. The coach who enforces the policies contained herein will be a winner.

Athletics holds a prominent position in the program of Sharpsville Area High School. However, at no time will athletics be permitted to become competitive with the academic philosophy of our school.

Individual coaches may offer optional out-of-season programs. Players' attendance at these out of season training programs cannot be made mandatory and there will be no retribution towards a player who chooses not to participate.

Because of the small size of the District, students are encouraged to participate in various athletic and extracurricular activities in order to expand their experiences. Coaches/Advisors must cooperate to help these students have a rewarding experience. The program in season has priority over other out-of-season programs. When two programs are simultaneously in season, a performance, game, etc. should take priority over a practice. Students are to be encouraged and not discouraged or made to have to choose between one or the other. Our programs depend on students and it is our duty to support their efforts.

This manual is intended to benefit the **Student Athlete**, School Board, Athletic Committee, Administration, Athletic Director, and Coaches.

PHILOSOPHY & OBJECTIVES FOR ATHLETICS

Philosophy: The athletic program in the Sharpsville Area School District is designed to promote a wholesome atmosphere of good sportsmanship, teamwork, and competition among the students and to generate school spirit. The Administration of the Sharpsville Area School District believes that the success of the athletic program is not necessarily measured by the record of victories compiled by the various teams.

The Administration would never presume to dictate to any coach the methods, style of play, or procedures used in preparing his/her squad for competition. However, there are several guiding principles which in keeping with the educational nature of coaching seem necessary to be established as an overall framework of operation for coaches.

Members of each squad will reflect the highest order of ability, behavior, actions, and attitudes. Such things as using tobacco, drugs, or profanity on the field cannot be tolerated, can only lead to an unsuccessful program and will require disciplinary action. This extends to every coach, assistant, and volunteer.

Athletic programs in the elementary school are designed to expose students to the sport. The goal is to learn how to play the game and to work on acquiring the necessary skills needed to participate in the program. Emphasis needs to be on offering a learning experience that is fun and not based on win/lose competition.

High School Varsity, Junior Varsity and Middle School programs are designed to maximize learned skills in competition representing our school. At these levels, not all team members may get in every contest. It is our hope that when the contest has been decided, free substitution will be utilized. All parental concerns should be addressed through the Sharpsville Area School District Athletic Complaint Form as attached as Appendix D.

Effective coaching presumes efficient planning. Practice sessions as well as every phase of the entire sport activity must be planned in advance. Athletes participating in a PIAA sport are permitted at the same time to participate on teams not sponsored by the Sharpsville Area School District or PIAA. The PIAA sport practices and games take priority over the outside team. The student-athlete cannot be penalized by the coaching staff for participating in the out of school activity when it does not interfere with practices or competitions of the in-season PIAA Sport.

Objectives:

- 1. To provide natural outlets for students desiring to participate on teams in competition with other teams of similar ability.**
- 2. To assist in the development of school and student morale.**
- 3. To teach good sportsmanship and teamwork.**
- 4. To help develop skills that have carry-over value in terms of leisure time.**

SAFETY IN SPORTS

A student participating in or desiring to participate in an athletic activity and the student's parent or guardian shall, each school year prior to participation by the student in an athletic activity, sign and return to the student's school an acknowledgement of receipt and review of a concussion and traumatic brain injury information sheet.

A student who as determined by a game official, coach from the student's team, certified athletic trainer, licensed physician, licensed physical therapist or other official designated by the student's school entity exhibits signs or symptoms of a concussion or traumatic brain injury while participating in an athletic activity shall be removed by the coach from participation at that time.

The coach shall not return a student to participation until the student is evaluated and cleared for return to participation in writing by an appropriate medical professional. The governing body of a school entity may designate a specific person or persons, who must be appropriate medical professionals, to provide written clearance for return to participation.

Once each school year, a coach shall complete the concussion management certification training course offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Federation of State High School Associations or another provider approved by the Department of Health and the Cardiac Wise on-line course. A coach shall not coach an athletic activity until the coach completes the training course required under this subsection. The governing body of a school entity shall establish the following minimum penalties for a coach found in violation of the removal from play or return to play requirements:

- 1. For a first violation, suspension from coaching any athletic activity for the remainder of the season.**
- 2. For a second violation, suspension from coaching any athletic activity for the remainder of the season and for the next season.**
- 3. For a third violation, permanent suspension from coaching any athletic activity.**

PRESEASON HEAT-ACCLIMATIZATION GUIDELINES

Practice or competition in hot and/or humid environmental conditions poses special problems for student-athletes. Heat illness is a primary concern in these conditions. Although deaths from heat illness are rare, constant surveillance and education are necessary to prevent heat-related problems.

Core Principles:

- 1. Acclimatization Period: The first five days of football practice—Monday, August 6th. Helmets and shoulder pads with shorts the first 5 days is permitted with no contact.**
- 2. These practices are limited to 5 hours of practice daily for the 3 days of heat acclimatization. Practice sessions may be no longer than 3 hours in length and teams must have 2 hours of rest (recovery period) between sessions.**
- 3. If more than 48 hours between the conclusion of the heat acclimatization program and first day of practice, the program will not have its intended effect medically. Therefore, these practices are limited to five hours per day with no contact on the fifth day since it is prior to the start of the stipulated fall season.**
- 4. Monday's practice August 13th – may be 5 hours with a 2 hours buffer between practices and contact may be included.**
- 5. Prevention of Heat Illness from the Sport Medicine Guidelines of the PIAA Handbook should be observed. These include regular measurements of environmental conditions. See Sports Medicine Guidelines for more detail or consult with your athletic trainer and/or team physician.**

Out-of-Season Activities: General conditioning provides only partial heat acclimatization. Therefore, student athletes should be exposed gradually to hot and/or humid environmental conditions to provide better heat acclimatization. Each exposure also should involve a gradual increase in the amount of exercise that is undertaken over a period of days to weeks until the exercise intensity and duration is comparable to that likely to occur in competition. If conditions are extreme, training or competition should be held during a cooler time of the day.

When protective gear and clothing is authorized by the school Principal outside of the defined season, frequent rest periods should be scheduled so that the gear and clothing can be loosened to allow evaporation of sweat and other forms of heat loss. During the acclimatization process, it may be advisable to use a minimum of protective gear and clothing and to practice in T-shirts, shorts, socks and shoes. Excessive tape and outer clothing that restrict sweat evaporation should be avoided. Rubberized suits should never be used.

SCHEDULE OF DATES

Refer to Appendix C for official practice dates, first scrimmages, and contest dates.

DRUG USE AND ABUSE

The use of drugs in any manner, and/or for the intent of enhancing athletic performance, is prohibited and is a violation of both the District's Athletic Policy and Discipline Code. Drugs may include but are not limited to, any drug sold or distributed for the purpose of athletic enhancement and those referred to in the Student Handbook.

A violation of this policy will result in an immediate suspension from school for a period of ten days and referral for a drug and alcohol assessment. During this period of time, the student-athlete is not permitted to participate, whether it is practice or competition. Upon the student's return to school, they will be permitted to return to the team under a probationary status and must submit to a drug test at the parent's expense .

A second offense of this nature, as it relates to any aspect of school jurisdiction, is an immediate ten-day suspension and referral to the Board of Education for expulsion. In conjunction with a second offense the student will not be

permitted any future participation in athletics within the Sharpsville Area School District until they return to school.

We are here to help our student-athletes in any way possible. A self-referral of a drug or alcohol problem will be dealt with and assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Coaches may not distribute any performance enhancers/substances. Any coach who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action by the Board of Education.

NOTE: It is the responsibility of the Athletic Director, head coaches and their staff to communicate this policy to all student-athletes.

HAZING, HARASSMENT AND BULLYING

It is the responsibility of the head coach and all assistant and volunteer coaches to inform all student athletes of the District's policies on hazing, harassment, and bullying and to discourage such practices. Further, it the responsibility of all coaches to insure that such incidents do not occur. In the event that something does occur that might be interpreted as a violation of these policies, it must be reported immediately, in writing, to the administration and the Director of Athletics.

The policies in their complete form can be found in the Appendix A.

BOOSTER CLUBS

Booster Clubs are a valuable complement to the school's athletic programs. Their activities often provide additional financial resources for the programs they support. Sharpsville Area School District recognizes these groups. Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Spouses may serve the Booster Club as a general member or as a member of its executive board, bu shall not serve the Booster Club as the treasurer or any other officer with check signing authority on the Booster Club's bank account.

MEALS

Meals will be provided for all playoff games or if the contest is over 80 miles round trip and leaving after school by request of the Head Coach.

TRANSPORTATION

Motor Coaches will be provided by the school district to teams qualifying for the State Championship game only. Boosters may provide Motor Coaches if they are willing to pay for the difference in price.

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

The Athletic Committee shall recommend athletic policy to the School Board. The Athletic Committee or Superintendent shall recommend to the School Board personnel for employment in the Sharpsville Athletic Department. In addition, the Athletic Department will contribute to a more effective, broader athletic program. The Athletic Committee shall be composed of the following members:

- 1. Superintendent**
- 2. School Board President, Ex-Officio**
- 3. 3 School Board Members-selected by the President of the Board.**
- 4. Building Level Principal**
- 5. Athletic Director**

The Athletic Committee shall meet monthly. A member of the School Board will act as Chairperson of the Committee and will be appointed to this position by the School Board President. Head coaches are welcomed to attend meetings.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

The High School Principal, in all matters pertaining to interscholastic athletics, is responsible to the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association. The Principal may delegate some of these powers and responsibilities but such delegation shall not relieve the Principal of responsibility.

The High School Principal shall:

- 1. Control all interscholastic athletic relations in which the school participates. This applies to interscholastic athletics for both boys and girls.**
- 2. Sanction all contests in which Sharpsville High School participates. To see that all contracts for interscholastic contests in which the school participates are in writing and bear proper signatures.**
- 3. Exclude any contestant who because of bad habits, or improper conduct, would not represent the school in a becoming manner, and also to exclude any contestant who has suffered serious illness or injury until the participant is pronounced physically fit by a physician.**
- 4. Assure educational eligibility of all participating "in season" athletes; i.e., academically, attendance, discipline, etc., in accordance with the Board Policy 123 – Interscholastic Athletics and the by-laws of this Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association.**
- 5. Authorize the Athletic Director to represent the school in the absence of the Principal concerning matters of interscholastic athletics.**
- 6. Alert staff and students of required behavior regulations as set forth by either District Ten or the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association.**
- 7. Complete an evaluation form on each Head Coach at the conclusion of each coach's season. This evaluation must be completed within a two-week period at the conclusion of the season. A meeting will be scheduled with the principal and the head coach to discuss the contents of the evaluation.**
- 8. The Principal and Athletic Director will be responsible for an individual evaluation on each Head Coach.**

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

The Athletic Director shall:

- 1. Be directly responsible to the Principal and indirectly to the Superintendent for the administration and supervision of the interscholastic athletic program. This shall include both boys and girls interscholastic events.**
- 2. Attend Mercer County Athletic Directors meetings, District Ten meetings, and meetings or conferences that are of importance to the proper functioning of the program.**
- 3. Supervise the development of all interscholastic sports at the various levels for boys and girls and see that the policies of the School District are carried out.**
- 4. Prepare the schedules of all sports excluding those assigned by the Mercer County Athletic Conference Executive Secretary. Head Coaches of the various sports will assist in making these schedules by recommending schools for athletic relationships.**
- 5. Make all interscholastic game contracts, have them signed by the High School Principal, and see that confirmation of such contract is on file. This is to be done with the assistance of the Head Coaches.**
- 6. Select, purchase and inventory, with the help of the Head Coaches, equipment and supplies needed for the various athletic teams of the Sharpsville Area School District. All purchases will require a purchase order prior to placing the order.**
- 7. Handle matters affecting cancellation of contests because of weather or other conditions. Cancellations will be made after consultation with the High School Principal.**
- 8. Make transportation arrangements for all "away" contests for all teams with input from the Head Coaches.**
- 9. Keep a complete record of all varsity interscholastic contests (with scores) furnished by the Head Coaches of each sport.**
- 10. Supervise the sale of tickets to interscholastic contests and maintain a payroll of all extra help in carrying out the athletic program. Selection of extra help will be made at the discretion of the Athletic Director.**
- 11. Keep on file a complete inventory of all athletic equipment in the School District. This inventory is to be prepared by the Head Coach.**
- 12. Arrange medical examinations for all students participating in interscholastic events before regular practice sessions of each sport**

are to begin.

13. **Prepare all necessary forms and eligibility rosters of players for athletic contests in compliance with the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association. This will be done with the assistance of the Head Coaches. The Athletic Director is to receive information from coaches at least one week prior to the first game.**
14. **Inform all coaches of their responsibility for making certain that every student participant has on file a medical examination card, school insurance, or an insurance exemption form.**
15. **Develop the athletic budget for the year.**
16. **Secure officials, prepare official contracts, and provide method of payment for officials.**
17. **Maintain and distribute medical trainer supplies.**
18. **Provide a physician for "home" varsity football games.**
19. **Arrange ambulance service for all "home" football games.**
20. **Arrange for police services and general security at athletic contests.**
21. **Supervise "home" athletic contests.**
22. **Make arrangements for football equipment to be reconditioned (pickup and return).**
23. **Provide assistance and input to the coaches when called upon.**
24. **Make arrangements for athletes or teams participating in district and state playoffs (transportation, meals, forms, attendance and supervision).**
25. **Schedule practices and interscholastic and intramural activities.**
26. **Maintain all correspondence pertaining to athletics with media.**
27. **Work closely with the maintenance staff in preparing fields and facilities for contests and practices.**
28. **Schedule three pre-season Coaching Seminars each year to cover emergency procedures, athletic handbook, and injury prevention.**
29. **Complete an evaluation form on each Head Coach and Assistant Coach at the conclusion of each coach's season. This evaluation must be completed within a two-week period at the conclusion of the season.**

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HEAD COACH

The Head Coach shall:

- 1. All head coaches (paid and/or volunteer) must complete the on-line concussion course at <http://nfhslearn.com>, and sudden cardiac arrest course, <http://www.sportsafetyinternational.org/cardiacwise/>, every year before the first practice. These courses must be completed and a copy of the certificate turned into the Athletic Director before the first official practice date for the sport. Only one certification is required each year for persons that coach more than one sport.**
- 2. All coaches hired before June 30th, 2016 must complete 2 SafeSchools Trainings for Coaching Education, Fundamentals of Coaching and First Aid, by June 30, 2017 for employment in the 2018-2019 school year. All coaches hired after July 1, 2016 have 2 years to complete the courses.**
- 3. All coaches must have an approved online coaching registration with the PIAA before they will be hired by the Sharpsville Area School District starting for 2018-2019 school year.**
- 4. In the event that a coach feels that it is in the best interest of the program to dismiss an athlete from the team, the Head Coach must hold a conference with the Athletic Director and the Building Principal before conducting the dismissal. If a dismissal occurs, the individual will have the opportunity to request a conference with the coaches involved and the administration.**
- 5. Report any major or minor unusual incidents involving the program to the Athletic Director and Principal. This should occur prior to any removal from your team.**
- 6. Be responsible for the control, care, distribution and maintenance of supplies and equipment and facility involved for that particular sport.**
- 7. Supervise and direct the work of all the coaches and athletes in that sport, regardless of the grade level of the activity.**
- 8. Work directly with the Athletic Director in the purchase of equipment.**
- 9. Assist the Athletic Director in the establishment of all schedules in that sport and the hiring of officials for these events when applicable.**
- 10. Provide the Athletic Director with the following information within ten (10) school days after the completion of the season or as the date**

indicates on the form for inclusion in the Athletic History of the School.

- a. **Summary Results: Opponents and Scores.**
 - b. **Summary of Letter-Winners.**
 - c. **Summary of Season Inventory.**
 - d. **Assistant Coaches Evaluations**
11. **Submit a proposed budget for that sport to the Athletic Director. The Head Coach will receive the budget form in mid-December.**
 12. **Make sure that all students participating in the activity have physical cards signed by the doctor and the parent and insurance exemption forms indicating private coverage, prior to the first practice. These items are to be alphabetized and returned to the Athletic Director as soon as possible, or within five (5) days after the first practice session. Insurance exemption forms provided by the District must be utilized. Although this responsibility may be delegated to assistants at various levels, such delegation shall not relieve the Head Coach of responsibility.**
 13. **Provide the building Principal and Athletic Director with alphabetized (by grade) lists of names with all necessary information of P.I.A.A. eligibility at least one week prior to the first game. Football and Basketball coaches should also provide a numerical roster.**
 14. **Provide the Athletic Director with a Departure Schedule at least three weeks prior to their first contest.**
 15. **Coaches cannot make out-of-season activities mandatory for in-season involvement. A waiver must be signed by all coaches and parents of students participating in off season activities requiring transportation and are included as Appendix B.**
 16. **Be responsible to notify the media of varsity game results upon completion of each contest.**
 17. **Follow the set of Player Rules established for all athletic programs. These rules can be found at the end of this handbook as Appendix F.**
 18. **Assist with the physical examinations for that sport. A designee may be appointed.**
 19. **Attend the mandatory P.I.A.A. Rules Interpretation Meeting for that sport prior to the start of the season.**
 20. **Follow district guidelines set for player's appearance and actions on and off the playing field.**
 21. **Athletes are not to be practicing (shooting around) without coaching supervision before athletic contest.**
 22. **To report problems, conflicts, or injuries of major significance that**

- occur at contests or practices to the Principal and/or Athletic Director as soon as possible. Also, a written report explaining the circumstances should follow within twenty-four (24) hours.
23. Each Coach is responsible for checking the daily attendance bulletin as well as their mailbox each day in order to assure that their student athletes are in attendance and are eligible. If there is a question or doubt, contact the high school office immediately for clarification.
 24. Remain at the athletic site until all players have departed.
 25. Coaches may develop their own code of conduct as long as they do not violate school district policy, the athletic policy or a student's constitutional rights.
 26. Team rules must be submitted to the Athletic Director and Principal prior to the first day of practice.
 27. The Head Coach and at least one paid assistant, if a paid assistant is employed, must ride on the bus to and from all interscholastic games and scrimmages.
 28. Coaches and advisors are responsible for working collaboratively to allow students to participate in multiple activities.
 29. Sunday practices are allowed under the following conditions;
 - a. The Sunday practice is not the seventh consecutive practice day.
 - b. Permission has been given by the Superintendent.
 - c. The Sunday practice is not mandatory.
 - d. The practice is scheduled to begin after 1:00 p.m.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ASSISTANT COACHES

It is fundamental that the Coach is completely responsible for the behavior, safety, and welfare of the squad during practice sessions and games. His/her behavior must reflect a positive image which mirrors the behavior expected for each athlete. The coach sets the example for the student athlete. This positive image and good sportsmanship shall be exhibited at every athletic contest or school sponsored event that the coach attends. This includes in-season and out-of-season events.

- 1. All coaches (paid and/or volunteer) must complete the on-line concussion course at <http://nfhslearn.com>, and sudden cardiac arrest course, <http://www.sportsafetyinternational.org/cardiacwise/>, every year before the first practice. These courses must be completed and a copy of the certificate turned into the Athletic Director before the first official practice date for the sport. Only one certification is required each year for persons that coach more than one sport.**
- 2. All coaches hired before June 30th, 2016 must complete 2 SafeSchools Trainings for Coaching Education, Fundamentals of Coaching and First Aid, by June 30, 2017 for employment in the 2018-2019 school year. All coaches hired after July 1, 2016 have 2 years to complete the courses.**
- 3. All coaches must have an approved online coaching registration with the PIAA before they will be hired by the Sharpsville Area School District starting for 2018-2019 school year.**
- 4. Coaches are responsible for unlocking and locking doors of buildings before and after practice sessions.**
- 5. The coach is to be the last one to leave the building.**
- 6. Coaches are to be prompt reporting to practice and are not to leave sessions unattended.**
- 7. Coaches are responsible for seeing that any participant excluded from taking part in the activity, either game or practice, by the medical doctor or nurse, do not re-enter the activity until proper release is granted.**
- 8. They must exhibit good sportsmanship at all times and encourage good sportsmanship both in victory and in defeat.**
- 9. They must instill in their athletes the respect for constituted authority both on and off the playing field.**
- 10. The Head Coach and at least one paid assistant, if a paid assistant is employed, must ride on the bus to and from all interscholastic games**

and scrimmages.

11. Coaches must insist that all athletes ride the bus to and from all interscholastic games and scrimmages. Any athlete not riding the bus will not be permitted to participate, unless written approval has been granted by the High School Principal, Parents, or Legal Guardian. Please use the Contest Travel Release found in Appendix E.
12. When early dismissal is required, the Coach must obtain permission from the building Principal. The Coach should submit a list of students to the office so that teachers can be made aware of who would be leaving early.
13. All coaches are required to return all school equipment and keys upon completion of their season.
14. Coaches cannot make out-of-season activities mandatory for in-season involvement. A waiver must be signed by all coaches and parents of students participating in off season activities requiring transportation. The waiver is included in the Athletic Handbook as Appendix B.
15. To report problems, conflicts, or injuries of major significance that occur at contests or practices to the Principal and/or Athletic Director as soon as possible. Also, a written report explaining the circumstances should follow within twenty-four (24) hours.
16. Each coach is responsible for checking the daily attendance bulletin as well as their mailbox each day in order to assure that their student athletes are in attendance and are eligible. If there is a question or doubt, contact the high school office immediately for clarification.
17. All Coaches are responsible for attending a pre-season meeting to review the Athletic Handbook, emergency procedures, and Injury Prevention.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

In order to determine the feasibility of providing a particular athletic program for our students, the following guidelines have been established regulating minimum team numbers and sign up/participation dates. The cut-off days for reporting numbers of participants to the principal are as follows:

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Fall Sports: | 5 th day of school |
| Winter Sports: | 5 th day after the official PIAA practice start date |
| Spring Sports: | 5 th day after the official PIAA practice start date |

Players can continue to come out for a sport until they would miss more than 50% of all contest after their 2 week conditioning period. For example if there are 16 contests, the student would be able to come out 2 weeks prior to the 8th game athletes coming out after the official PIAA start date will be required to go through a two week conditioning period before being permitted to participate in a scheduled game/match etc... The exception would be a student moving into the District after the PIAA start date and who was playing that sport in the prior school at the time of the transfer.

Any coach(es) and athlete(s) who participate in their respective State playoff program will be required to leave the site immediately after being eliminated from the tournament/playoff. Coaches or athletes who want to remain will do so at their own expense.

CUTTING PLAYERS POLICY

It is the coach's decision whether or not he chooses to cut any players.

LATE ARRIVALS FROM AWAY EVENTS

In the case of a late arrival from away events, the following guidelines will be used for arrival to school the following day. In the case of a bus arriving between 12:00 a.m. and 1:00 a.m., the students who were on the bus for the event will have their starting time extended to 9:00 a.m. In the case of a bus arriving later than 1:00 a.m., the students who were on the bus for the event will have their starting time delayed to 10:00 a.m.

This is only to be utilized in the case of a bus failure, an accident that is not

preventable by the head coach and their coaching staff or if an athletic contest went longer than expected. It does not allow for any pre-planned stops. In addition, the high school office should be notified of the situation the following morning by 7:40 A.M. The delayed starting time will be strictly adhered to and the same policies will be in effect for any tardiness past the designed time.

MINIMUM PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS

Fall

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Football | 22 |
| Volleyball | 12 |
| Cross Country | 15 |
| Golf | 5 |
| Soccer | 15 |

Winter

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Wrestling | 13 |
| Girls Basketball | 10 |
| Boys Basketball | 10 |

Spring

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Track | 30 |
| Baseball | 12 |
| Softball | 12 |

Any sport not meeting the minimum number of participants will be placed on probation for that year. The Head Coach of a sport that has been placed on probation will be required to develop an improvement plan and meet with the Athletic Committee within one month of the completion of their season.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION POLICY

The Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association and the Sharpsville Area School District require pupils to have a physical examination before entering interscholastic practices, scrimmages, or games. The Sharpsville Area School District and PIAA requires the physical to be given prior to each sport season but not before June 1st. The Head Coach and Assistant Coaches will insist that all candidates have this physical prior to any participation. Breach of this requirement will necessitate Administrative discipline.

STATE REGULATIONS FOR SPORTS

The Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association will serve the Sharpsville Area School District as a guide.

LOCAL REGULATIONS FOR SPORTS

The District X rules and regulations will prevail in areas not covered by the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association's rules and regulations.

COACHES EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

1. Coaches should give necessary assistance to injured athletes.
2. Contact the parents immediately if accident warrants. The parent and/or guardian should inform the coach as to what to do with the injured athlete.
3. If immediate care seems essential and the parent cannot be contacted, call an ambulance service. Give details of the injury and the exact location for pick-up.
4. A written accident report must be filed.
5. Contact the Building Principal in the event of a serious injury.

ACCIDENT/PERSONAL INJURY REPORT

An Accident and Personal Injury Report form must be submitted to the high school/middle school office within twenty-four hours of a workplace student/staff/coach injury or accident resulting in the need for medical attention regardless of lost time or no lost time.

If necessary, attach a letter detailing any additional information that may be pertinent to the incident. Be sure to include the date of the injury, the individual(s) injured, a description of the accident and any additional remarks that are necessary. Once completed be sure to prepare a duplicate, submit one copy to the high school/middle school office and send one copy to the Superintendent's Office if medical treatment is beyond the capability of the school.

TRANSPORTATION TO CONTESTS

Head coaches are to assume the responsibility of providing the Athletic Director with dates and times they will require transportation to all "away" athletic events. This request should be done for the season at least three weeks prior to the first contest.

The Head Coach and at least one paid assistant, if a paid assistant is employed, must ride on the bus to and from all interscholastic games and scrimmages.

EQUIPMENT FOR ATHLETICS

All Head Coaches are responsible for equipment requests and inventories of equipment in their sport. Forms are provided for these items.

Students shall be informed that athletic equipment purchased by the School District must be returned at the conclusion of the season. Students failing to return equipment may have report cards and/or awards withheld and are responsible for paying for any lost equipment. Equipment damaged beyond normal wear and tear will be the responsibility of the athlete to pay for replacement of such equipment.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL ATHLETICS/ACTIVITIES

Participants in interscholastic athletics, school activities, and clubs will be eligible to participate as long as they meet the eligibility requirements established by the School Board. Eligibility is defined for the first one-third of each grading period, as meeting PIAA requirements which is passing four major subjects. For the remainder of each grading period, eligibility is defined as not having a combined total of two failing grades (F) in courses equal to two credits. For example, an “F” in English and one in Math would make the student NOT eligible. Again an “F” in English and an “F” in Physical Education would make the student eligible since Physical Education is not a full credit course. A full credit is defined as a class that meets five (5) days a week for the entire year. Tutoring is available and is highly recommended for students receiving a failing grade.

Any participant who is declared ineligible for the first time during the particular activity will be able to practice, but not play in any games etc. The second time during the season that a student is ineligible by these standards, he/she will not be able to play in games/matches and will not be permitted to practice during the period of ineligibility. The third time during that season that a student is ineligible by these standards, he/she will be dismissed from the team but will be eligible for the next season. Any student who is declared ineligible will not be permitted to attend training trips, away contests, and any activities where they would be dismissed from school. Likewise, a student who is ineligible for the time during school can go to dances, club activities, and club meetings. The second time and every time after that, the student forfeits all rights to participate; and therefore, will be barred from all activities.

Any activity which is related to the curriculum and figures into a student's grade is exempt.

In the implementation of this policy, there will be a weekly evaluation of each student's eligibility based upon the failure reports due in the Principal's Office each Friday afternoon. Students not meeting the academic requirements would not participate the following week. At the beginning of a new school year, ineligible status will be issued to students whose academic achievement was unsatisfactory according to the PIAA guidelines.

TARDINESS/ILLNESS ELIGIBILITY

Students are to be in school the entire day to be eligible to participate in activities (practices, games, activities). This means that students are to be in school on time, not late. The only time that student athletes are permitted to come in late the morning after a game would be if the coaches have been given prior approval by the High School Principal to tell the students that they can be late. We understand that forces beyond our own control may lead to a situation where a student arrives to school late. We will work with students in these situations; however, excessive tardiness (as determined by the principal) to school will result in the loss of eligibility to participate. All students must be in school by 11:00 a.m. in order to be eligible to participate. A written excuse from the physician or dentist must be presented upon the student entering the school building.

Any student who leaves school for illness reasons during the course of the regular school day is not eligible to participate in any school sponsored activity occurring that same day/evening. This does not affect students who are excused from school for a normal doctor or dental appointment that had been previously scheduled and approved by the High School Office.

ATHLETIC AWARDS

1. Authority to make awards - The Head Coach shall recommend the members of the squad who have met the requirements for a letter. If any problems arise due to extenuating circumstances, a committee composed of the Principal, Athletic Director, and the Head Coach shall make the final decision.
2. Awards
 - A. Six inch chenille letter and certificate - all varsity sports, including cheerleading. A letter will be awarded to an athlete the first time he/she meets the qualifications of each sport.
 - B. The second year a participant meets the requirements he/she will receive a leatherette certificate and a metal insignia for that sport.
 - C. The third year a participant meets the requirement he/she will receive a 5 1/2" by 7" silver plated plaque and service bar.
 - D. The fourth year a participant meets the requirement he/she will receive an 8" by 8" gold plated plaque.

3. General criteria in meeting the requirements for a letter:

- A. Attendance/Participation - Athletes should attend all practices unless excused by the Head Coach. Athletes must compete the entire season, including District and State competition in order to earn a letter.**
- B. Sportsmanship - Athletes should realize that they are representing their school and community and should conduct themselves in such a manner that they are unquestionable assets to both.**
- C. Adherence to Training Rules - Athletes must abide by the training rules set forth by the Head Coach and the Athletic Department.**
- D. Interscholastic Competitions - Participants must compete in Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association approved interscholastic varsity level sports or competitions.**

4. Specific criteria in meeting the requirements for a letter.

- A. *Football/Basketball*: must participate in at least 50% of the all varsity games (excluding scrimmages).**
- B. *Golf/Girls' Volleyball*: Must play in at least fifty (50) percent of all varsity matches.**
- C. *Wrestling*: Must participate in at least half of the varsity matches and score at least a total of eight team points.**
- D. *Baseball/Softball*: Must participate in at least fifty (50) percent of the innings played during the season.**
- E. *Soccer*: must participate in at least 50% of the all varsity matches (excluding scrimmages).**
- F. *Track/Cross Country*: Must participate in at least half of the varsity meets and score at least twenty-one (21) points.**

- **Dual Meet Requirements:**

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| First Place | 5 points |
| Second Place | 3 points |
| Third Place | 1 point |

- **Invitational Requirements:**

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| First Place | 10 points |
| Second Place | 8 points |
| Third Place | 6 points |

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| Fourth Place | 4 points |
| Fifth Place | 2 points |
| Sixth Place | 1 point |

- Standard set at all athletic Invitational

The athlete will receive ten (10) points for district qualifying standards set by the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association in their individual events. Relay standards are set by the coaches because the district does not have a set time. Athletes reaching the coach's standard will also receive ten (10) points and will be eligible to compete at the District Ten meet.

- G. ***Cheerleading:*** All cheerleaders, regardless of grade, are eligible to cheer for any sport. Only varsity squads can letter. Lettering is achieved by the number of games attended per season. All girls must attend ninety (90) percent of designated season games excluding tournaments. If a cheerleader misses more than ten (10) percent of the games, a valid excuse is required (example: death in family). Working is not a valid excuse.
- H. ***Bocce:*** must participate in at least 50% of the all varsity matches. This includes the 'helper' for the Bocce participant.

I. ***Special Situations:***

1. ***Managers:*** Fulfill the duties assigned by the Head Coach. Recommendation of the Head Coach shall determine award winners.
2. ***Two Years in the Same Sport:*** Any athlete who participated in the same sport during his/her junior and senior years and did not meet the specific requirements for a letter, may be recommended for a letter by the Head Coach.
3. ***Trainers:*** Fulfill the duties assigned by the Head Coach. Recommendation of the Head Coach shall determine award winners.
4. ***Injured Athletes:*** An athlete who has been injured and cannot complete the season or who cannot meet the requirements of that sport may receive a letter upon the recommendation of the Head Coach.

SHARPSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: HAZING

ADOPTED: February 16, 2010

REVISED: March 19, 2012

| | 247. HAZING |
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| 1. Purpose | The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe, positive environment for students and staff that is free from hazing. Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational goals of the district and are prohibited at all times. |
| 2. Definitions | <p>For purposes of this policy hazing is defined as any activity that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental health, physical health or safety of a student or causes willful destruction or removal of public or private property for the purpose of initiation or membership in or affiliation with any organization recognized by the Board.</p> <p>Endanger the physical health shall include but not be limited to any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping; beating; branding; forced calisthenics; exposure to the elements; forced consumption of any food, alcoholic beverage, drug, or controlled substance; or other forced physical activity that could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the individual.</p> <p>Endanger the mental health shall include any activity that would subject an individual to extreme mental stress, such as prolonged sleep deprivation, forced prolonged exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual.</p> <p>Any hazing activity, whether by an individual or a group, shall be presumed to be a forced activity, even if a student willingly participates.</p> |
| 3. Authority SC 510, 511 Pol. 122, 123 | <p>The Board does not condone any form of initiation or harassment, known as hazing, as part of any school-sponsored student activity. No student, coach, sponsor, volunteer or district employee shall plan, direct, encourage, assist or engage in any hazing activity.</p> <p>The Board directs that no administrator, coach, sponsor, volunteer or district employee shall permit, condone or tolerate any form of hazing.</p> |

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| <p>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p> | <p>The district will investigate all complaints of hazing and will administer appropriate discipline to any individual who violates this policy.</p> <p>The Board encourages students who have been subjected to hazing to promptly report such incidents to the building principal.</p> <p>District administrators shall investigate promptly all complaints of hazing and administer appropriate discipline to any individual who violates this policy.</p> <p>Students, administrators, coaches, sponsors, volunteers, and district employees shall be alert to incidents of hazing and shall report such conduct to the building principal.</p> <p>The district shall annually inform students, parents/guardians, coaches, sponsors, volunteers and district staff that hazing of district students is prohibited, by means of distribution of written policy, publication in handbooks, presentation at an assembly, verbal instructions by the coach or sponsor at the start of the season or program, and posting of notice/signs.</p> |
| <p>5. Guidelines</p> | <p><u>Complaint Procedure</u></p> <p>When a student believes that s/he has been subject to hazing, the student shall promptly report the incident, orally or in writing, to the building principal.</p> <p>The principal shall conduct a timely, impartial, thorough, and comprehensive investigation of the alleged hazing.</p> <p>The principal shall prepare a written report summarizing the investigation and recommending disposition of the complaint. The complainant and the accused shall be informed of the outcome of the investigation, including the recommended disposition of the complaint.</p> <p>If the investigation results in a substantiated finding of hazing, the principal shall recommend appropriate disciplinary action, as circumstances warrant, in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Additionally, the student may be subject to disciplinary action by the coach or sponsor, up to and including removal from the activity.</p> <p>The investigation results in a substantiated finding that a coach or sponsor affiliated with the activity planned, directed, encouraged, assisted, condoned or ignored any form of hazing, s/he will be disciplined appropriately. Discipline could include dismissal from the position as coach or sponsor.</p> |

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| | <p>The district shall document the corrective action taken and, where not prohibited by law, inform the complainant.</p> <p>References:</p> <p>School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 510, 511</p> <p>Board Policy – 122, 123</p> |
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SHARPSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: UNLAWFUL HARASSMENT

ADOPTED: February 16, 2010

REVISED: March 19, 2012

| | 248. UNLAWFUL HARASSMENT |
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| 1. Purpose | The Board strives to provide a safe, positive learning climate for students in the schools. Therefore, it shall be the policy of the district to maintain an educational environment in which harassment in any form is not tolerated. |
| 2. Authority 43 P.S. Sec. 951 et seq Title IX 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1681 et seq 29 CFR Sec. 1606.8(a) | <p>The Board prohibits all forms of unlawful harassment of students and third parties by all district students and staff members, contracted individuals, vendors, volunteers, and third parties in the schools. The Board encourages students and third parties who have been harassed to promptly report such incidents to the designated employees.</p> <p>The Board directs that complaints of harassment shall be investigated promptly, and corrective action be taken when allegations are substantiated. Confidentiality of all parties shall be maintained, consistent with the district's legal and investigative obligations.</p> <p>No reprisals nor retaliation shall occur as a result of good faith charges of harassment.</p> |
| 3. Definitions 29 CFR Sec. 1606.8(a) | <p>For purposes of this policy, harassment shall consist of verbal, written, graphic or physical conduct relating to an individual's race, color, national origin/ethnicity, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion when such conduct:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it affects an individual's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity or creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment. 2. Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's academic performance. 3. Otherwise adversely affects an individual's learning opportunities. |

248. UNLAWFUL HARASSMENT - Pg. 2

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| <p>29 CFR Sec. 1604.11(a)</p> | <p>For purposes of this policy, sexual harassment shall consist of unwelcome sexual advances; requests for sexual favors; and other inappropriate verbal, written, graphic or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Submission to such conduct is made explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a student's academic status. 2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for academic or work decisions affecting the individual. 3. Such conduct deprives a student of educational aid, benefits, services or treatment. 4. Such conduct is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with the student's school performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment. |
| <p>4. Delegation of Responsibility Pol. 103</p> | <p>In order to maintain an educational environment that discourages and prohibits unlawful harassment, the Board designates the Superintendent as the district's Compliance Officer.</p> <p>The Compliance Officer shall publish and disseminate this policy and the complaint procedure at least annually to students, parents/guardians, employees, independent contractors, vendors, and the public. The publication shall include the position, office address and telephone number of the Compliance Officer.</p> <p>The administration shall be responsible to provide training for students and employees regarding all aspects of unlawful harassment.</p> <p>Each staff member shall be responsible to maintain an educational environment free from all forms of unlawful harassment.</p> <p>Each student shall be responsible to respect the rights of their fellow students and district employees and to ensure an atmosphere free from all forms of unlawful harassment.</p> <p>The building principal or designee shall be responsible to complete the following duties when receiving a complaint of unlawful harassment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inform the student or third party of the right to file a complaint and the complaint procedure. |

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| <p>5. Guidelines</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Inform the complainant that s/he may be accompanied by a parent/guardian during all steps of the complaint procedure. 3. Notify the complainant and the accused of the progress at appropriate stages of the procedure. 4. Refer the complainant to the Compliance Officer if the building principal is the subject of the complaint. <p><u>Complaint Procedure – Student/Third Party</u></p> <p>Step 1 – Reporting</p> <p>A student or third party who believes s/he has been subject to conduct that constitutes a violation of this policy is encouraged to immediately report the incident to the building principal or a district employee.</p> <p>A school employee who suspects or is notified that a student has been subject to conduct that constitutes a violation of this policy shall immediately report the incident to the building principal.</p> <p>If the building principal is the subject of a complaint, the student, third party or employee shall report the incident directly to the Compliance Officer.</p> <p>Step 2 – Investigation</p> <p>Upon receiving a complaint of unlawful harassment, the building principal shall immediately notify the Compliance Officer. The Compliance Officer shall authorize the building principal to investigate the complaint, unless the building principal is the subject of the complaint or is unable to conduct the investigation.</p> <p>The investigation may consist of individual interviews with the complainant, the accused, and others with knowledge relative to the incident. The investigator may also evaluate any other information and materials relevant to the investigation.</p> <p>The obligation to conduct this investigation shall not be negated by the fact that a criminal investigation of the incident is pending or has been concluded.</p> |
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| | <p>Step 3 – Investigative Report</p> <p>The building principal shall prepare and submit a written report to the Compliance Officer within fifteen (15) days, unless additional time to complete the investigation is required. The report shall include a summary of the investigation, a determination of whether the complaint has been substantiated as factual and whether it is a violation of this policy, and a recommended disposition of the complaint.</p> <p>The complainant and the accused shall be informed of the outcome of the investigation, including the recommended disposition of the complaint.</p> <p>Step 4 – District Action</p> <p>If the investigation results in a finding that the complaint is factual and constitutes a violation of this policy, the district shall take prompt, corrective action to ensure that such conduct ceases and will not recur. District staff shall document the corrective action taken and, where not prohibited by law, inform the complainant.</p> <p>Disciplinary actions shall be consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, Board policies and district procedures, applicable collective bargaining agreements, and state and federal laws, and may include educational activities and/or counseling services.</p> <p>If it is concluded that a student has knowingly made a false complaint under this policy, such student shall be subject to disciplinary action.</p> <p><u>Appeal Procedure</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. If the complainant is not satisfied with a finding of no violation of the policy or with the recommended corrective action, s/he may submit a written appeal to the Compliance Officer within fifteen (15) days.2. The Compliance Officer shall review the investigation and the investigative report and may also conduct a reasonable investigation.3. The Compliance Officer shall prepare a written response to the appeal within fifteen (15) days. Copies of the response shall be provided to the complainant, the accused and the building principal who conducted the initial investigation.4. The Compliance Officer may confirm, refuse or modify any finding or corrective action as part of the appeal procedure. |
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| | <p>References:</p> <p>Pennsylvania Human Relations Act – 43 P.S. Sec. 951 et seq.</p> <p>Federal Anti-Discrimination Law – 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1681 et seq. (Title IX)</p> <p>Harassment Regulations and Guidelines</p> <p>Code of Federal Regulations – 29 CFR Sec. 1604.11(a), 1606.8(a)</p> <p>Office for Civil Rights – Revised Sexual Harassment Guidance: Harassment of Students By School Employees, Other Students, or Third Parties</p> <p>Board Policy – 103, 103.1, 806</p> |
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REPORT FORM FOR COMPLAINTS OF UNLAWFUL HARASSMENT

Complainant: _____
 Home Address: _____
 Home Phone: _____
 School Building: _____
 Date of Alleged Incident(s): _____

Alleged harassment was based on: (circle those that apply)

| | | |
|----------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Race | Color | National Origin |
| Gender | Age | Disability |
| Religion | Sexual Orientation | |

Name of person you believe violated the district's unlawful harassment policy: _____

If the alleged harassment was directed against another person, identify the other person: _____

Describe the incident as clearly as possible, including what force, if any, was used; verbal statements (i.e. threats, requests, demands, etc.); what, if any, physical contact was involved. Attach additional pages if necessary: _____

When and where incident occurred: _____

List any witnesses who were present: _____

This complaint is based on my honest belief that _____ has harassed me or another person. I certify that the information I have provided in this complaint is true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.

 Complainant's Signature

 Date

 Received By

 Date

SHARPSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: BULLYING/
CYBERBULLYING

ADOPTED: December 1, 2008

REVISED: February 16, 2010

| 249. BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING | |
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| 1. Purpose | The Board is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for district students. The Board recognizes that bullying creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, detracts from the safe environment necessary for student learning, and may lead to more serious violence. Therefore, the Board prohibits bullying by district students. |
| 2. Definitions SC 1303.1-A | <p>Bullying means an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act or series of acts directed at another student or students that is severe, persistent or pervasive and has the effect of doing any of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Substantial interference with a student's education. 2. Creation of a threatening environment. 3. Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school. <p>Bullying, as defined in this policy, includes cyberbullying.</p> |
| SC 1303.1-A | School setting means in the school, on school grounds, in school vehicles, at a designated bus stop or at any activity sponsored, supervised or sanctioned by the school. |
| 3. Authority SC 1303.1-A | <p>The Board prohibits all forms of bullying by district students.</p> <p>The Board encourages students who have been bullied to promptly report such incidents to the building principal or designee.</p> <p>The Board directs that complaints of bullying shall be investigated promptly, and corrective action shall be taken when allegations are verified. Confidentiality of all parties shall be maintained, consistent with the district's legal and investigative obligations. No reprisals or retaliation shall occur as a result of good faith reports of bullying.</p> |

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| 4. Delegation of Responsibility | Each student shall be responsible to respect the rights of others and to ensure an atmosphere free from bullying. |
| | The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy. |
| SC 1303.1-A | The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that this policy and administrative regulations are reviewed annually with students. |
| SC 1303.1-A | The Superintendent or designee, in cooperation with other appropriate administrators, shall review this policy every three (3) years and recommend necessary revisions to the Board. |
| SC 1303.1-A | <p>District administration shall annually provide the following information with the Safe School Report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Board's Bullying Policy. 2. Report of bullying incidents. 3. Information on the development and implementation of any bullying prevention, intervention or education programs. |
| 5. Guidelines SC 1303.1-A Title 22 Sec. 12.3 Pol. 218 | <p>The Code of Student Conduct, which shall contain this policy, shall be disseminated annually to students.</p> <p>This policy shall be accessible in every classroom. The policy shall be posted in a prominent location within each school building and on the district web site, if available.</p> <p><u>Education</u></p> |
| SC 1302-A, 1303.1-A Pol. 236 | The district may develop and implement bullying prevention and intervention programs. Such programs shall provide district staff and students with appropriate training for effectively responding to, intervening in and reporting incidents of bullying. |

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| <p>SC 1303.1-A Pol. 218, 233</p> | <p><u>Consequences For Violations</u></p> <p>A student who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, which may include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Counseling within the school. 2. Parental conference. 3. Loss of school privileges. 4. Transfer to another school building, classroom or school bus. 5. Exclusion from school-sponsored activities. 6. Detention. 7. Suspension. 8. Expulsion. 9. Counseling/Therapy outside of school. 10. Referral to law enforcement officials. <p>References:</p> <p>School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1302-A, 1303.1-A</p> <p>State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 12.3</p> <p>Board Policy – 000, 218, 233, 236</p> |
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WAIVER OF LIABILITY, AND INDEMNIFICATION

Acknowledgment and Assumption of Risk:

In consideration of being permitted to participate in any athletic/sports events related to or sponsored by Sharpsville Area School District ("SASD"), and any events and activities related thereto, and intending to be legally bound, the undersigned hereby agrees and acknowledges that:

I am aware of the dangers and the risks to my person and property and to those of my passenger(s) when I transport student-athlete(s) or other individual(s) in a privately-owned motor vehicle to or from athletic/sport activities or related events sponsored by or related to the SASD.

I understand that operating a motor vehicle while engaged in the above activities involves certain risks for physical injury or property damage. I also understand that there are potential risks to myself and my passenger(s) while operating a motor vehicle of which I may not presently be aware. Because of the dangers of operating a motor vehicle in these circumstances, I recognize the importance and agree to fully comply with all applicable laws, policies, rules and regulations, of any local, state or federal agencies and any SASD supervisor's instructions regarding this activity.

I understand that the SASD does not provide insurance coverage for privately-owned vehicles, and that my personal liability insurance may not provide coverage for such risks, and I shall consult with my insurance agent or carrier, as the SASD has no responsibility or liability for any injury or damage resulting from my operation of a motor vehicle.

I voluntarily elect to transport student-athletes or other individuals in a private motor vehicle with knowledge of the dangers and risks involved, financial or otherwise, and I hereby agree to accept and assume any and all risks and liability, including but not limited to, property damage, personal injury, disability, or death that may result therefrom.

Waiver of Liability and Indemnification:

In consideration of being permitted to participate in athletic/sport events related to or sponsored by Sharpsville Area School District ("SASD"), and any other related events and activities, on behalf of myself, my personal representatives, heirs, next of kin, successors and assigns, and intending to be legally bound, the undersigned hereby agrees and acknowledges that he/she will forever:

a. waive, release, and discharge the SASD, its elected or appointed officers, employees, agents, attorneys, and insurance carriers, (collectively "**Releasees**") from any and all liability for my death, disability, personal injury, property damage, property theft or claims of any nature whatsoever, or that of any passenger(s) which may hereafter accrue to me or them, or my estate or the estate of any passengers as a direct or indirect result of my negligence or the negligence of others that may occur while transporting student-athletes or other individuals to and from athletic/sport activities or events in a private motor vehicle; and

b. agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Releasees, from and against any and all claims of any nature whatsoever including all costs, expenses and attorneys' fees which in any manner result from my own actions, inactions or negligence, and the action, inaction or negligence of others while transporting student-athletes or other individuals to and/or from athletic/sport activities or events sponsored by or related to the SASD in a private motor vehicle .

I hereby consent that this release, indemnification, and waiver shall be construed broadly to provide a release, indemnification, and waiver to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law.

READ BEFORE SIGNING : I, the undersigned, affirm that I am at least 18 years of age and I am freely signing this Waiver of Liability, and Indemnification Agreement. I have read this form and fully understand that by signing this form I am giving up legal rights and/or remedies which may otherwise be available to me. I further agree that if any portion is held invalid, the remainder will continue in full legal force and effect.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Witness: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

WAIVER OF LIABILITY, AND INDEMNIFICATION - FOR MINOR

Acknowledgment and Assumption of Risk: In consideration of being permitted to participate in any athletic/sport events related to or sponsored by Sharpsville Area School District ("SASD"), the undersigned parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) of the minor-participant, intending to be legally bound, hereby acknowledge and agree as follows:

That the minor-participant may be transported in a privately-owned vehicle to and/or from any athletic/sport events related to or sponsored by the SASD, and any other events and activities related thereto. The parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) shall instruct the minor-participant prior to being transported in a privately owned motor vehicle, that he/she should inspect the vehicle and equipment to be used and if the participant believes anything is unsafe, he/she should immediately advise his/her coach or supervisor of such condition(s) and refuse to participate in the event or be transported in such motor vehicle.

That being transported in a motor involves certain risks of serious injury, including permanent disability and death, and severe social and economic losses which might result not only from the vehicle operators actions, inactions or negligence, but also from the action, inaction or negligence of others, or the condition of any equipment used. Further, that there may be other risks not known or reasonably foreseeable.

That the SASD does not provide insurance coverage for privately-owned motor vehicles and has no responsibility or liability for any injury resulting from such vehicles, and the personal motor vehicle liability insurance of the owner/operator of a privately-owned motor vehicle may not provide coverage for such risks.

I/We voluntarily elect to permit the undersigned minor-participant to be transported to and/or from any athletic/sport events related to or sponsored by the SASD in a privately-owned motor vehicle with knowledge of the danger involved, and hereby agree to accept and assume any and all risks, including but not limited to, property damage, permanent disability, or death of the minor-participant.

Waiver of Liability and Indemnification: In consideration of the minor-participant being permitted to participate in any athletic/sport events related to or sponsored by Sharpsville Area School District ("SASD"), I/we, the parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) of the minor-participant, intending to be legally bound hereby acknowledge and agree to forever:

a. waive, release, and discharge the SASD and its elected or appointed officers, employees, agents, attorneys, and insurance carriers, (collectively "Releasees") from of any and all liability to each of the undersigned, their heirs and/or next of kin for any and all claims, demands, losses or damages or injury, including death or damage to property, caused or alleged to be caused in whole or in part from the actions, inactions or negligence of the operator of a privately-owned motor vehicle, and the action, inaction or negligence of others, and assume any and all liability for the minor-participant's death, disability, personal injury, property damage, property theft or claims of any nature whatsoever which may hereafter accrue to the minor-participant or the parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) of the minor-participant, and his/her estate as a direct or indirect result of the minor-participant being transported to and/or from any athletic/sport events related to or sponsored by the SASD ; and

b. agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Releasees from and against any and all liability or claims of any nature whatsoever including all costs, expenses and attorneys' fees, which in any manner result from the actions, inactions or negligence of the operator of the privately-owned motor vehicle, or the action, inaction or negligence of others, as a direct or indirect result of the minor-participant being transported in a privately-owned motor vehicle to and/or from any athletic/sport events related to or sponsored by the SASD and any other events and activities related thereto.

The undersigned have read this form and fully understand that by signing this form he/she/they are giving up legal rights and/or remedies which may otherwise be available to him/her/them regarding any losses that may sustain as a result of the minor's participation in the above-referenced activity. I/We agree that if any portion is held invalid, the remainder will continue in full legal force and effect.

(Signature of parent or guardian)

Date: _____

Adult Witness: _____

(Signature of minor-participant)

Date: _____

Adult Witness: _____

Parents/Guardians:

Because of the large amount of time that our coaches spend with their student athletes in interpersonal relationships; it is no surprise to find that at the root of a large number of team problems is poor communications. A positive relationship between coaches and parents can greatly influence players, fans, and overall team atmosphere. Therefore, we have prepared the following chain of command flow chart to assure that the message that is heard is not different than the one intended. We appreciate your strict adherence to our guidelines to assure your child's well-being throughout the season.

Communicate Concern to Head Coach and Assistant



Completion and Submission of complaint form to Athletic Director



Communicate Concern to Building Level Principal



Communicate Concern to Superintendent



Communicate Concern to the Board of Education

Parents may not address a coach regarding an issue until 24 hours following an athletic contest. Violations of this procedure will result in possible parent suspension from future contests or for the individual season.

If you have any questions/concerns, please feel free to contact Mrs. Carla Hawthorne (Ext. 1560), Athletic Director, Mrs. Heidi AbiNader (Ext. 2850), Middle School Principal or Ms. Carol Houck (Ext. 1850), High School Principal. We can all be reached at (724) 962-8300.

Yours in Athletics,

Sharpsville Administration

**SHARPSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
ATHLETIC COMPLAINT FORM**

Individual filing complaint _____ Date _____

In the space provided below, please specify your complaint in detail. If you require more space, use the reverse side of this form. Please sign the form upon completion and return to the office of the athletic director.

Signature _____

**SHARPSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
CONTEST TRAVEL RELEASE**

(Date)

This is to certify that _____ has my permission to ride
(Student's name)

(to - from – both) the athletic contest on _____.
(Date)

at _____.
(Location of Contest)

**I certify that I am personally transporting the above – named student, or have
Arranged for transportation with an adult (non-student) of my choosing for this
student.**

The reason for not riding the bus is:

(The reason must be sufficiently urgent to family needs to justify the request.)

I understand that the Sharpsville Middle/High School rules require that students ride the bus to and from all events and a departure from this requirement will release the Sharpsville Area School District and its employees and officers from all liability with reference to the above – stated transportation.

This form must be on file with the main office before the dismissal of school on the day of the contest.

(Signature of parent/guardian)

APPROVED

NOT APPROVED

Signature of Principal

PLAYER RULES

- **You are a student first and an athlete second. You must maintain the academic standards set forth by the Sharpsville Area School District Athletic Handbook or you will be declared ineligible. The handbook is available on the District website at www.sharpsville.k12.pa.us.**
- **You are a role model to other students in the school system, especially the young ones, be sure to conduct yourself properly at all times, especially on the field.**
- **Expectations for your behavior extend into the classroom as well. Any student suspended from school (in or out) will be suspended from practice and/or games for the same span of time. A second suspension may result in dismissal from the team.**
- **In the event that you accumulate three unexcused absences, you will no longer be able to participate in athletic events for the remainder of the season in which the unexcused absences occurred.**
- **The coaches will do what is necessary to foster and maintain a positive team environment for all players, managers and coaches. The High School Athletic Handbook will be used as a guideline to promote sportsmanship, teamwork, character and development. Do not criticize your coaches or**

teammates. That behavior breaks down morale and unity. All parent concerns will be addressed with the SASD athletic complaint form.

- All players will dress and conduct themselves appropriately at practices/sporting events. Any misbehavior may result in suspension or dismissal from the team.
- All uniforms and equipment will be turned in at the final event of the season. Failure to do so will result in a fine for the replacement value of the equipment.
- Bullying and hazing will not be tolerated. The Sharpsville Area School District reserves the right to involve law enforcement in any violation of the Bullying, cyberbullying or hazing policies.

PARENT COMMUNICATION PLAN CONTRACT

Parenting and coaching are complicated tasks for every individual involved in the process. It is the position of the Sharpsville Area School District to promote a wholesome atmosphere of good sportsmanship, teamwork and competition among the students and to generate school spirit.

Middle School programs are a continuation of the elementary programs. The emphasis is on learning how to play the game, working on skills, and teamwork. Win/lose competition is not to be the prime incentive. Therefore, all students shall be given the opportunity to participate in every aspect of the program. Playing at this level is more important than the winning of the game.

High School Varsity and Junior Varsity programs are designed to the maximum learned skills in competition representing our school. At this level, not all team members may get in every contest. It is our hope that when the contest has been decided that free substitution be utilized.

There are situations that may require a conference between coaches and parents. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary parental concerns should be addressed through the Sharpsville Area School District Athletic Complaint Form. This form should not be used for questioning playing time, coaching philosophy, and/or other student athletes. It should only be used for

issues such as concerns about your child's behavior, ways to help improve your child's performance, or the treatment of your child mentally and physically. The form can be found in the high school office.

As children become involved in programs at school they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. However, it is also important to understand that there will be times when things do not go exactly as they wish. During these moments, discussion with a coach is encouraged.

Please sign, detach, and return to the Head Coach prior to the start of the season. Keep the Player Rules and Parent Communication Plan Contract for your reference.

My signature below indicates that I have read, understood, and agreed to the Player Rules and Parent Communication Plan Contract.

Player Signature

Parent Signature