



Stillwater

Central School District

Athletic Code of Conduct

Fall Sports

Boys Varsity Soccer
Girls Varsity Soccer
Boys JV Soccer
Girls JV Soccer
Boys Modified Soccer
Girls Modified Soccer
Varsity Golf
JV/Varsity Volleyball
Modified Volleyball
Varsity Football
JV Football
Modified Football
Varsity Cross Country
Varsity Cheerleading

Winter Sports

Alpine Skiing
Boys Varsity Basketball
Girls Varsity Basketball
Boys JV Basketball
Girls JV Basketball
Boys Modified Basketball
Girls Modified Basketball
Varsity Bowling
Varsity Indoor Track
Junior Varsity Cheerleading
Varsity Cheerleading

Spring Sports

Varsity Track and Field
Modified Track and Field
Varsity Baseball
JV Baseball
Modified Baseball
Varsity Softball
JV Softball
Modified Softball

INTRODUCTION

Athletics are an important component of the Stillwater Central School District's educational program. The Athletic Code of Conduct applies to student athletes from their initial interscholastic participation through their graduation from high school. The rules governing student athletes are in effect from July 1st through June 30th of each school year, and apply to all student athletes encompassing grades seven through twelve. This policy is in effect 24 hours a day, in or out of each athletic season, and covers student-athlete comportment both in and outside of school.

Student participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right. A student athlete's participation in interscholastic athletics is contingent upon their full compliance with all provisions of this Athletic Code of Conduct. The following goals will serve as the foundation for the specific provisions within this Code of Conduct:

Our goals are:

1. To develop and maintain the highest level of sportsmanship.
2. To develop proper attitudes toward winning and losing, success and failure.
3. To encourage and develop respect for fellow athletes whether they are teammates, members of other Stillwater athletic teams, or members of opposing teams.
4. To assure that the amount of time required for athletic participation does not interfere with academic success.
5. To develop proper attitudes toward individual health habits, appearance on and off the field, and citizenship in and out of school.
6. To encourage competition not only for the tangible rewards but also for the development of positive attitudes that makes athletic competition valuable and worthwhile.
7. To orient all athletic staff members to abide by the rules, regulations, and officials' decisions that govern each sport.
8. To maintain the highest standard of ethics, recognize each participant as an individual who will conduct him/herself in a manner befitting his/her responsibilities, and develop the kind of rapport with the broader school community that will improve the total educational program.

COACHING

In Stillwater, coaching is defined as a teaching situation. This implies that teacher responsibility for supervision, preparation, and training is as essential in coaching as it is in the classroom, especially if we are to justify our interscholastic program on a sound educational philosophy. Therefore, we must assume that the individual coach will apply him/herself to athletic assignments in the same professional manner displayed in a formal classroom situation.

Of all educators, we feel that a coach has the greatest opportunity to influence young people. A coach, through his/her interaction with student athletes during practice and game situations

is considered an extension of the school day. The “Classroom” becomes the football/soccer field, the softball/baseball field, basketball court or the yellow school bus carrying athlete’s home after they’ve just suffered a heartrending loss. These are teaching opportunities a coach can use to help young people become better citizens and better human beings.

CODE OF ETHICS FOR COACHES

In Stillwater each student-athlete should be treated as an individual whose welfare shall be primary at all times. The coach must be aware that he/she serves as a model in the education of the student-athlete and, therefore, shall never place the value of winning above the value of character building.

The coach must, at all times uphold the honor and dignity of the coaching profession. In all personal contact with the student-athletes, parents, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the state high school athletic association, the media and the public, the coach will strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.

The coach shall support and enforce school rules for the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco use and abuse, and under no circumstances shall allow the use of these substances.

The coach shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct his or her program in harmony within the total school program.

The coach shall be thoroughly acquainted with contest, state, league, and local rules, and is responsible for their interpretation to team members. The coach shall abide by the letter and spirit of these rules at all times.

Coaches shall actively use their influence to promote sportsmanship by working closely with parents, athletes, cheerleaders and administrators.

Contest officials shall have the respect and support of the coach. The coach shall not engage in conduct, which will incite players or spectators against the officials, or against each other. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.

Before and after each contest, rival coaches should meet and exchange friendly greetings to set the correct tone for the athletic event.

CPR, FIRST AID AND COACHING COURSE REQUIREMENTS

ALL coaches must have current and valid first aid and CPR certification. Coaches who are not certified in physical education must complete the coaching course requirement within three years. The requirement consists of three courses: 1) Health Sciences; 2) Philosophy, Principles and Organization in Athletics; 3) Theory and Techniques of Coaching.

EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS

1. Be positive with your son/daughter. Let them know that they are accomplishing something by being part of the team.
2. Do not offer excuses to them if they are not playing. Encourage them to work hard and do their best.
3. Encourage athletes to follow the rules. Whether they are a first stringer or seventh stringer, players must follow rules pertaining to curfew, drinking, smoking, promptness and school, etc.
4. As a fan, you are entitled to cheer enthusiastically for your team, but don't become belligerent. Coaches work with athletes and know their talents. Respect that!
5. Insist that the athletes respect team rules, school rules, game officials, and sportsmanship. Self-respect begins with self-control.
6. Encourage the athletes to improve their self-image by believing in themselves.
7. Encourage your athlete to play for the love of the game.
8. Remember that the coach is involved as a coach because he/she is sincerely fond of children and is an experienced professional. Coaches have different ways of dealing with people and situations. Athlete's lives are enriched by interaction with different types of leaders.
9. Remember: at a competition you, the parent, represent your community, your school and your son/daughter. Please be a positive role model.

PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION

As your son/daughter becomes involved in the sports program at the Stillwater Central School District, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. This is the opportunity for your child to talk with their respective coach and discuss the situation. When your child handles the problem, it becomes part of the learning and maturation process. There may also be situations that require a conversation between the coach and the parent. These are encouraged. It's important that both parties have a clear understanding of the other's position. Please follow the following procedures to help promote a resolution.

1. If the concern is not resolved between your child and the coach, call the Athletic Director to arrange a conference. A meeting will be arranged with the coach, parent, and Athletic Director.
2. At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined.
3. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolutions.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COACH

Pre-Season Duties

Prior to the opening of each sports season, the head coach will:

1. Review annually the regulations governing athletics as they appear in the handbook of the NYSPHSAA.
2. Coordinate the coaching program in his/her specialty, resulting in junior varsity and/or modified teams following the varsity philosophy of play.
3. Inventory all equipment for his/her sport before any of it is issued. A copy must be turned into the Athletic Director.
4. Report unsafe equipment to the Director of Athletics and do not issue it to athletes until it has been repaired or replaced.
5. Organize a meeting with prospective team members.
 - (a) Check on physical examinations and medical questionnaire forms.
 - (b) Handout Eligibility Policies and Parental Permission Forms to all prospective team members.
NO STUDENT IS TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY PRACTICE WITHOUT THE COACH HAVING THESE SIGNED FORMS IN HIS/HER POSSESSION.
 - (c) The coach should formally review the Athletic Code of Conduct along with all rules governing his/her sport at the initial preseason meeting.
6. All relevant forms should be turned into the appropriate school personnel:
 - (a) Medical questionnaire to the school nurse.
 - (b) Emergency medical forms should remain in the coach's possession at all times to ensure quick access.
 - (c) Signed parental consent form to the Athletic Director.

In-Season Duties

1. Keep practice periods for the sport within the confines of the time specified by the Athletic Director and with due consideration to the coaching staff and best interest of the athletes.
2. Take full responsibility for the general upkeep, safeguard and protection of all equipment under the jurisdiction of the sports program.
3. Maintain open communication with the Athletic Director regarding any important developments in that sport, in particular, safety and discipline issue.
4. Take full responsibility for maintaining a complete inventory of all equipment used in that sport.
5. Take full responsibility for fostering and maintaining good sportsmanship and developing good public relations within the school and community.
6. Plan and schedule an appropriate program of team practices throughout the sports season, in coordination with the Athletic Director.

7. Work closely with the Athletic Director in scheduling interscholastic contests.
8. Take full responsibility for the appropriate supervision of all members of his/her team. No students will be left unsupervised at any time.
9. Take responsibility for the monitoring of the academic eligibility for each athlete involved in his/her sport.
10. Oversee the safety conditions of the facility or area in which the assigned sport is conducted. Report all unsafe conditions to the Athletic Director as soon as possible.
11. Promote the sport by prompt and accurate score reporting to the local media.
12. Show interest and loyalty to the entire school program. Cooperate with other coaches in promoting all district sports team programs possible under existing condition.
- 13. Always communicate directly with the Athletic Director when there are serious discipline issues with students. This must be done prior to any disposition being handed out.**
14. Conduct try-outs and establish a documented plan such as method of selection, cutting, notification of candidates, etc.
15. All game cancellations fall under the purview of the Athletic Director.
16. Accompany the team to and from athletic contests. If this is not possible, supervision of players on the school buses can be assigned to non-coaching personnel with the approval of the Athletic Director and High school Principal.
17. Will work cooperatively with other coaches and the Athletic Director when reserving the facilities for game or practice.
18. Insure that the team is properly attired for all athletic contests.
19. Insist upon the orderly conduct of players to and from athletic fields.
20. Take responsibility for building and facility security. All rooms, physical activity areas and outside doors shall be locked at the conclusion of your activity.
NO KEYS WILL BE GIVEN TO STUDENTS.
21. Remain and supervise all students until they have left the building.
22. Insure that all practice equipment is put away in its proper place following each practice or contest.
23. Prepare first aid kits with necessary supplies for emergencies. The kit should be checked daily and replenished when necessary.
24. Performs other duties as related to his/her assignments as directed by the Athletic Director.
25. Notify the Athletic Director of any team dismissals or quitters. No athlete can be dismissed from a team without consultation with the High School Principal and Athletic Director.

Post-Season Duties

At the conclusion of each sports season, the coach will:

1. Arrange for the systematic return of all school equipment and hold the athlete responsible for all equipment not returned.

2. Arrange for cleaning, sorting, and inventory of all equipment. Submit a copy of the inventory to the Athletic Director.
3. Submit all requisitions to the Athletic Director for the next year's budget.
4. Submit an End of Season Report to the Athletic Director.
5. Submit the current score book and summary of season statistics to the Athletic Director.
6. Arrange for the issuance of athletic letters and awards. Document these awards and forward them to the Athletic Director.
7. Your attendance and participation in the end of year Sort Banquet is mandatory.

Athletic Code of Ethics

- (A) Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility as an athlete and the privilege of representing your school and community.
- (B) Learn the rules of your sport thoroughly. This will assist you in achieving a better understanding and appreciation of the game and promote fair play.
- (C) Cooperate fully with coaches and officials, always exercise good sportsmanship, abiding by the rules as they are stated.
- (D) Only the captain may communicate with officials on the clarification of rules. It is his/her responsibility to communicate what was said back to his/her teammates and/or coach.
- (E) Always respect the official's judgment and interpretation of the rules. Never argue or make non-verbal gestures that indicate disagreement. This type of immature activity may invite undesirable behavior on the part of teammates or spectators. Remember, you are an important role model for others.
- (F) Congratulate opponents in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat. This is a true measure of character and sportsmanship.

Athletic Code of Conduct

- (A) Abide by the Stillwater Code of Conduct, Athletic Code of Conduct, and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Guidelines.
- (B) Detention: An athlete may not participate in any extracurricular activity until detention has been completed.
- (C) Out-of-School/In-School Suspension: An athlete may not participate in any extracurricular activity until the suspension period has concluded and the student has been formally readmitted to school.

- (D) School Absences: An athlete may not participate in any extra-curricular activity unless he/she has been present in school for a full day of attendance (must be in school no later than 7:40 a.m.). The only exceptions to this rule are legal excuses such as doctor/dentist appointments, college visitations, court appearances, or other extraordinary circumstances. It is incumbent that the parent ensures loss of school time is minimized when making such appointments. The high school principal shall have prior notice of such appointments and has the authority to approve or disapprove the absence. This applies to Saturday games if absent on Friday.
- (E) Vacation: A player is expected to be at all practices and games including those held during vacation periods. The entire team depends on full participation. In rare cases, a player may find it necessary to miss a practice or a game. The player must request permission from the coach and not pass on the reasons for being absent through another player. This applies even if the player is not in school that day.

If family obligations are known to a player in advance that would cause a player to miss a game or practice, this must be made known to the coach at the earliest possible time. The coach will let the player know if the reason is acceptable. Consequences will be established by the coach if necessary.

- (F) Dismissal/Quitting Team: Any student who quits or is dismissed from an athletic team will not be allowed to participate in that activity or attend that particular activity until that sport season has concluded. The student athlete will not be eligible to participate in the next sport season, including the next school year. We realize that some team members are unfamiliar with certain sports and may desire to drop out after trying the sport. They may do so without penalty if they drop out prior to the first game or meet. Any exceptions to this rule are subject to review by the Athletic Council.
- (G) Sportsmanship: Any athlete who exhibits unsportsmanlike behavior shall minimally be ineligible to participate in the next regularly scheduled contest. Repeat offenders may be removed for the entire season. The Athletic Director and Principal will be involved in extenuating circumstances.
- (H) Transportation: All athletes are expected to travel to and from athletic contests with their teammates on the school bus. With the coach's permission, parents can "sign-out" only their child from away contests.
- (I) If a team member is not functioning with a positive attitude, a formal meeting may/will be held with the coach/athletic administrator and the player to correct the situation. The coach/administrator **may** suspend the player for a period of time. If the condition continues, the individual may be terminated from the team.

(J) **Alcohol and Substance Abuse:** The use, possession, sale or distribution of tobacco, tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs or performance enhancing substances, or drug paraphernalia is a violation of the Stillwater Athletic Code of Conduct. The loitering of a student athlete in the vicinity where alcohol or drugs are used, possessed, sold or distributed illegally is also a violation of the Code of Conduct. The penalties for a violating the code of conduct for alcohol and substance abuse as defined in paragraph (I) are as follows:

For the **first offense** the student-athlete will be afforded two (2) options:

Option 1: The student-athlete and parent agree to attend an intake meeting with the Saratoga Council for Prevention at their Saratoga County Office. The student-athlete agrees to enroll in the following Saratoga County Prevention Office classes: Risk and Responsibility Class and the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Class. The parent agrees to take full responsibility for insuring the student-athlete gets to and attends the classes. The parent also agrees to pay all fees associated with tuition for the aforementioned classes.

Risk and Responsibility Class

Offered: the 3rd Thursday of each month 6-8p.m.

Fee: \$25.00

This one session class is designed to help youth and young adults understand the risks and consequences of their actions. Discussed is the need to take responsibility for one's own actions and how those behaviors may affect others. Participants are introduced to goal setting and commitment skills and the impact of risky behavior on these skills. A basic understanding of how alcohol and other drugs impact decision making will be presented.

Alcohol and Substance Abuse Class (ASAEC)

Offered: 5-6 times a year on Monday evenings 6-8p.m.

Fee: \$100.00

This six week course covers basic information on most drugs of abuse with an emphasis on alcohol and marijuana. Participants will receive accurate information about substances, the laws and consequences of use, how these chemicals affect the body, particularly the brain and the impact chemicals may have in their personal development and future choices. It covers in depth the information presented in the Risk and Responsibility class. The class uses several guest speakers covering topics such as violence, underage the effects of drunk and drugged driving and other legal issues.

The student-athlete will also be remanded to our school's Youth Court.

Failure to comply with any conditions in option 1 would result in the student's suspension from all school sponsored co-curricular activities, including sports, clubs,

dances, proms, class trips, and graduation.

Option 2: The student-athlete will be suspended from playing 30% of the NYSPHSAA (New York State Public High School Athletic Association) maximum allowable scheduled games. Example: (football - 10 games is the maximum allowable contests by the NYSPHSAA, suspension anytime during the season in this sport would result in three games). Student-athletes will be expected to practice with the team during this period. The 30% will be carried into the player's next sport season if applicable. The athletic director will determine the number of suspended games upon reviewing the NYSPHSAA handbook.

For any **second offense**, the student-athlete will be suspended for 50% of the NYSPHAA maximum allowed scheduled games. The student-athlete will also be remanded to our school's Youth Court.

For a **third offense** there will be a minimum one (1) calendar year suspension from participating in interscholastic athletics starting from the date of the infraction. Participation beyond that date will be determined by the Athletic Council, which is composed of the high school principal, athletic director, and a representative of the coaching staff.

For any subsequent violation the student would be precluded from any further participation in interscholastic athletics while at Student in the Stillwater Central School District.

- (K) Participation is defined as the competing in interscholastic competitions. The athlete will continue to practice with his or her team and participate in scrimmages, as these are a means to prepare the athlete for scheduled competitions. The suspended athlete will be required to attend all games dressed in appropriate street clothes.
- (L) Hazing, as defined in Board of Education Policy , is prohibited in all forms on school grounds, buses, school sponsored program and activities, including school events that take place at locations outside of the school district. Any offender shall be subject to the conditions outlined in this policy.
- (M) Community Representation: Athletes are role models who should represent their team, school, and community in a positive manner. Consequently, any inappropriate or unlawful action committed by an athlete on or off school property is subject to penalty. Such penalties may include referral to Youth Court and/or suspension from the athletic team.
If in the discretion of a coach or administrator a student's citizenship or image is extremely poor, a conference will be held with the student and coach if applicable. Consideration will be made at that time to the student's future participation on athletic teams that represent Stillwater Central School. It is expected that these conferences

will rarely be necessary.

(N) Students who are waiting for practice should not be in the academic wing unless assigned to a teacher. Students waiting for practice should not congregate in the lobby area. Coaches will notify players where they should be.

(O) Academic ineligibility

Philosophy

All parties (school personnel, parents, students and fans) of SCS acknowledge that academic endeavors have priority over athletics and extra-curricular activities. Participation in these activities is an honor and a privilege. The School District recognizes that while extra-class activities provide opportunity for personal improvement, contribution to the school, self-realization of potential, and education of the whole person, participation in these activities cannot take precedence over academic pursuits. Every effort must be made to keep grades stable or improving.

Eligibility Criteria and Participation Guidelines

1. Students' eligibility will be governed by rules set by the Stillwater Central School District Board of Education, NYS Public High School Athletic Association, Section II, and the league association to which we belong.
2. Parents/guardians each set individual goals and standards for their children, and as such, may conclude the student's participation at any time.
3. Conflict with student quitting team?
4. **Academic probation** is defined as a warning period in which a student is expected to achieve a passing course and cumulative average.
5. **Ineligibility** means that students will not participate in **ANY** interscholastic activity. Extenuating circumstances must be approved by the principal and athletic director.

Procedure

1. Each year there are six (6) periods defined by marks.
 - a. The first time a student is identified as failing a subject(s) during any of these marking periods, or in their cumulative average, his/her guidance counselor will notify the student and his/her parents and coach/advisor in writing of academic probation.
 - b. Only one two-week probationary warning shall be granted per marking period. However:
 1. Students will have 2 weeks to raise the course and cumulative grade(s) to **65** or higher and maintain this minimum standard. During this two week period, students will be considered on probation. They will be allowed to practice and play with the team during the probation period.
 2. If a student fails to raise his/her course and cumulative grade(s) to **65** or higher, they will become ineligible. Ineligible students will not be allowed to practice/play with the team. They are

encouraged to use the time away from athletics to work on academics. They will be re-instated upon passing.

3. Full weeks of vacation, such as winter or spring breaks, are not included in the period of probation.
 4. Ineligibility will be carried over from one season to the next successive season, even if that season is in the next school year.
2. The June marking period will determine probation/eligibility for the fall sports season.
 - a. If failing courses are not rectified in summer school, the student will be on academic probation for the fall sports season. The new probation period begins the first day of classes in the new school year.
 - b. The student who is **ineligible** at the end of the school year would still begin the new school year on probation.
 - c. The student will be **eligible** after demonstrating academic improvement by performing at acceptable levels.
 3. The Guidance Office will issue weekly progress reports to identified students. The student is responsible for raising grades to a passing level within two weeks and for returning the signed weekly progress report to guidance by the end of that school day.
 4. It is the responsibility of the coach or the club advisor to be sure that no academically ineligible student participates in club or team activities, as well as maintain student/school/home contact during this period.

(P) Appeal Process: If a parent/guardian disagrees with a penalty placed upon their child the following are the guidelines for appealing the judgment:

1. The student-athlete or parent/guardian has the right to appeal a decision to the Athletic Council. The Athletic Council, chaired by the high school principal, athletic director, and a representative of the Stillwater coaching staff.
2. An appeal, in writing to the high school principal, must be requested by the parent within ten (10) calendar days of the receipt of a declaration of ineligibility. The Athletic Council will be convened within five (5) calendar days of the written request. The student-athlete and parent/guardian are expected to attend this meeting.
3. The Athletic Council will render a written decision within five (5) calendar days of the appeal meeting.

4. A further appeal would be to the school superintendent. This appeal must be made in writing within five (5) calendar days of receipt of the Athletic Council's decision. A formal meeting would be scheduled within five (5) calendar days of the request. Both the student and parent would be required to attend the appeal meeting. A written decision would be made within five (5) calendar days of the appeal meeting with the school superintendent.

5. If displeased with the remedy at this stage the parent could appeal to the board of education. The appeal would be in writing to the board of education president within ten (10) days of the school superintendent's written decision. The board of education would hear the appeal within ten (10) calendar days of the written request. The board of education would render a written decision within five (5) days of the formal hearing.

STUDENT/PARENT ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

I have read, understand, and support the rules and expectations governing my participation in any interscholastic athletic activity. In signing this contract I am agreeing to abide by the rules and regulations set forth in Stillwater High School Code of Conduct and Co-Curricular Policy. I further agree to abide by any approved training rules set forth by my coach / advisor. In signing this contract I understand that my signature as well as those of my parents will be valid for any and all seasons that I choose to participate in extra curricular activities throughout the time I am enrolled as a full time student at the school. I also recognize this contract is in effect each and every day for each calendar year I am enrolled as a full time student at Stillwater.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date