

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK AND CODE OF CONDUCT



SCITUATE HIGH SCHOOL
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Statement of Philosophy

Scituate High School understands that interscholastic athletics are a significant part of the educational process. The combination of academics and athletics enhances the quality of students' lives and expands their options for learning and personal growth. Athletics provide an educational opportunity in which students can learn essential life lessons beyond those that can be learned in an academic classroom.

First, this Athletic Code defines the positive expectations that we have for coaches, parents and athletes. The common values in our program need to reflect shared goals and a framework of principles agreed upon by the stakeholders' need for active support from other stakeholders, such as the school committee, school administration, other school staff and the community.

Second, as in a clearly laid out playing field, this code defines how we as a school will establish and maintain a healthy environment in which student athletes can mature through athletics, while considering the responsibilities of all stakeholders.

Third, this Athletic Code is meant to be a useable, dynamic document to guide the educational process through our school's athletic program. It defines the mission, philosophy, goals and parameters of the program, and the following priority activities:

- 1) **Pre-season** – coach and athletes discuss their expectations for the team; define success and set goals for individuals and teams for the season ahead; communicate with parents. Coaches will also create a climate of knowledge, understanding and agreement with all stakeholders
- 2) **During the season** – physical and character training; striving for excellence in performance and attitude; communicating with parents; encouraging parents and other stakeholders to support and model the character we are trying to instill in students. Help student athletes improve in skill and performance. Strive to succeed and win.
- 3) **Post-season** – encouraging student athletes to maintain a high level of personal commitment to both physical and character development during their off-season and to maintain an athletic lifestyle and exemplary character.
- 4) **Boundaries** – establishing the positive behavioral and achievement expectations, while defining the consequences for behavior that is “out of bounds.” Make all stakeholders realize the necessity of such boundaries and also that consequences are binding.

Fourth, it spells out the consequences for behavioral issues and violations but links the identified individual to a process for help and change.

Year Round Expectations

The substance use policies of the Scituate School Department and Scituate High School are in effect year round, in and out of season, on and off the field, in and out of uniform for all student athletes. There is a reason for this

We care about the welfare of our student athletes.

We also expect a commitment from any student if they want to be involved in the athletic program at Scituate High School.

Athletic Program Goals

Research tells us that the most important reasons why students participate in athletics are for:

- Enjoyment (FUN!)
- Participation (in practice and contests)
- Personal improvement (skills of the sport and in performance).

The primary goals of the Scituate High School Athletic Program are to:

- Offer students an enjoyable experience;
- Provide the greatest opportunity possible for athletes to participate in both practice and competitions;
- Promote personal improvement in skills, physical condition, performance and knowledge of the sport;
- Promote programs of excellence which will accomplish the above and lead to success on and off the playing field, and

Our teams shall pursue excellence at all times.

Sportsmanship

Good sportsmanship, ethical behavior, integrity and the respect for others are the guiding principles that permeate all interscholastic activities in our school. In perception and practice, sportsmanship is defined as those qualities, which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. All individuals, regardless of their role, are expected to model sportsmanship because of their influence on the behavior of others. It is our desire to have our programs known as class acts and to exhibit character in victory or defeat.

Principles:

1. The rules of the game are to be regarded as a mutual agreement, the spirit or letter of which no honorable person would break. Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, and peers.
2. No unethical or unsportsmanlike advantages are to be sought over others. Coaches

and athletes should live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the school administration and the RIIL.

3. Visiting teams are to be honored guests of the home team, and should be treated as such.
4. Athletic accomplishments by others should be appreciated and suitable recognition given. Athletes and coaches are to wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner that they would like to receive following a victory or defeat.
5. Coaches, athletes, and spectators must refrain from taunting, trash-talking, or making any kind of derogatory remarks, especially comments of ethnic, racial or sexual nature, to their opponents during the game. Any spectator or participant who continually demonstrates poor sportsmanship will be requested not to attend future contests.
6. The practice of “booming” is regarded as discourteous and un-sportsmanlike. Win with humility and lose with grace.
7. All participants must accept and understand the seriousness of their responsibility and the privilege of representing their school and community and appreciate and understand that their behavior is observed and emulated by many who are younger.

SPORTSMANSHIP POLICY

Recognizing the importance of good sportsmanship on the part of all athletes, coaches, and spectators at high school athletic events, the Scituate School Committee endorses the sportsmanship policy adopted by the Rhode Island Interscholastic League (RIIL). In accordance with this policy, each coach will receive a copy of the RIIL Manual. All athletes and parents will receive a letter from the Athletic Director addressing the importance of sportsmanship and their role in assuring that all participants (including opposing teams, fans, and officials) experience a positive atmosphere at all Scituate High School contests.

Any student athlete or coach ejected from a contest will meet with the Director of Athletics and the Principal to discuss the nature of the ejection and what will be done to ensure that a repeat offence will not occur. The ejected person will complete a questionnaire issued by the Rhode Island Interscholastic League. This questionnaire will be approved by the Director of Athletics and the Principal and forwarded to the RIIL Office before the ejected person can participate in another contest. The ejected person must sit out the next contest and cannot be in attendance at or participate in the contest. A minimum of one additional game suspension will be levied by the school against any student suspended by the RIIL. A second ejection will result in a suspension for the remainder of the season as well as being placed on probation by the Director of Athletics.

Spectators involved in any type of taunting, baiting, harassment, fighting, or derogatory comments toward players, coaches, officials or other fans will be subjected to immediate removal from the contest. Their attendance at future contests may be revoked. It is the goal of all involved in Scituate athletics that all participants have a positive and pleasurable experience when attending athletic contests.

PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETICS AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Participation in athletics and co-curricular activities is a privilege and an educational opportunity. To be eligible to participate in athletics and extra-curricular activities at Scituate High School, students are expected to maintain appropriate behavior, citizenship, and acceptable academic standards. Eligibility to participate in athletics and/or extra-curricular activities in any given marking quarter will be determined by *grades received* in the preceding marking quarter. Eligibility for fall sports is based on the last quarter of the previous year. A student will be allowed to fail one course and must maintain an overall grade point average of 1.700 (C-). Any student who fails any two courses, with grades of E or F, will be ineligible to participate in athletics (including practice) and extra-curricular activities. ***Summer school grades do not count for eligibility.***

Interscholastic athletics shall be governed by the Rhode Island Interscholastic League Rules and Regulations and/or the Scituate School Committee. In cases where the standards set by one agency exceed those by the other, then the highest standard will be in effect.

Situations that are not addressed by the above guidelines may arise. Such situations may be appealed to a review committee that includes the superintendent, principal and respective advisor or coach. The appeal must be made within one week of the student receiving his/her report card.

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

All students are encouraged to try some form of athletics to realize the maximum education benefit available at Scituate High School. The challenge and intensity of effort of athletic competition, whether intramural or interscholastic, will provide experiences, which will undoubtedly help students in preparation for adult life in our society.

A balanced program of interscholastic athletic offerings is available for boys and girls. Offerings include cheerleading, cross-country, football, soccer, tennis, basketball, hockey, baseball, lacrosse, softball, volleyball, golf, and other independent sports.

The selection process for an athletic team begins with respective coaches conducting a sign-up meeting with prospective student-athletes. The necessary paperwork, including a schedule for try-outs, will be distributed. Only eligible students will be allowed to try-out; students may only try-out for one athletic team in any one season. If they choose to quit a team and try out for another team, they must get a written note from the coach acknowledging that all issued equipment has been returned and that the coach knows they are moving to another team. This switching of teams will only be allowed if the team tryouts have not been completed. If a team has conducted tryouts and the team has been picked, then an athlete cannot leave one team and move to another, without the approval of the receiving coach and athletic director. Coaches will determine how many athletes will comprise a team; they will

conduct and supervise the try-outs; and inform the athletes of the criteria that will be used to select the members of a team. Depending on the number of students who express interest in a team, a try-out period may not be necessary. Once members of a team have been selected and if a student has a question about the selection process, he/she may meet with the coach(es) to discuss that process. If the student is not satisfied following this meeting, he/she may meet with the Director of Athletics. If this meeting fails to resolve the issue(s), a meeting with the Principal may be arranged. Being selected to a team does not guarantee a student-athlete of playing time. Playing time and placement on a JV or varsity team is determined by the coaching staff. Selection to a team allows for the student-athlete to participate in all practices and in games as the coach deems appropriate.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

For any student to participate in an athletic program they must

- be a student in good standing;
- have a current physical examination form on file;
- comply with the Eligibility Requirements for Participation in Athletics and Extracurricular Activities; and
- not have reached his/her 19th birthday prior to September 1st of that school year.

All student athletes must have **a current physical form on file with the athletic director** in order to try out for a team. Free physical exams are given each August by the school physician. Student athletes excused from physical education due to medical reasons are not eligible to participate in athletics. Athletes that are injured and have medical excuses from participation in physical education or athletics are not allowed to practice or play until medical clearance in writing has been given to the coach and the nurse. **All athletes must have proof of some form of personal insurance or school insurance.** If an athlete is injured, the family's medical coverage will be used first, school insurance will be used and then any other unpaid medical expenses may be covered by the RI Interscholastic Injury Fund. Forms for reimbursement by the Injury Fund may be obtained from the Athletic Director.

ATHLETIC CODES OF CONDUCT FOR OUR ATHLETES

A firm and fair policy of enforcement is necessary to uphold the regulations and standards of the athletic department. The community, school administrators, and coaching staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound athletic program. Athletes are expected to abide by this code of conduct, which will earn them the honor and respect that participation and competition in the interscholastic athletic program affords. Conduct which results in dishonor to the athlete, the team or the school will not be tolerated. Acts of unacceptable conduct, such as, but not limited to theft, vandalism, disrespect, immorality or violations of law, tarnish the reputation of everyone

associated with the program and will not be tolerated. In the event that a student athlete is arrested for a criminal offense, the athlete may be suspended from athletic participation, both in practice or contests, if it is determined that the nature of that offense places the other team members in jeopardy or may endanger their health, safety, or welfare. All rules apply to all athletes including players, managers, trainers, cheerleaders and all other students representing a team from the Scituate High School.

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS CODES FOR ATHLETES

Sport specific Athletic Codes of Conduct have been upheld five times by the Supreme Court of the United States of America. The basis for that support is due to the fact that in athletics, we must insure the health and safety of those that partake in such activities.

Rhode Island Laws Pertaining to Possession and Use

- First and foremost, the possession or use of alcohol by anyone under the age of 21 years of age is in violation of Rhode Island State Law.
- A person under the age of 21 who attempts to purchase, purchases, or is found in possession of an intoxicating beverage is in violation of R.I. State Law.
- Marijuana and any other controlled substances are illegal and punishable by criminal arrest and prosecution.
- Prescription drug possession or use of without a medical authorization is against the law and punishable by criminal arrest and prosecution.
- Possession and use of tobacco products by student athletes shall be a violation because of the well known health risks associated with use and the detrimental effect on physical performance.

Our message to Student Athletes is clear and should be understood by all stakeholders: There will be “NO USE” of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana or any other illicit controlled substances.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

Alcohol and Drugs

Medical research substantiates that the use of alcohol and mood modifying substances produces harmful effects on the human body and will affect athletic performance. You cannot compromise your participation with substance abuse. Students who experiment with such substances jeopardize program morale, reputation, and success, and they do physical harm to themselves and risk personal injury and harm to others during their activity. Students must decide if they want to hold a leadership position or want to be part of an athletic team. If they do wish to be a participant, they must make the commitment in order to do so. A big part of this decision means refraining from the use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, and steroids. Student athletes are considered in violation of this policy if they use or are in the presence of,

possess, consume (including being under the influence of) and/or distribute, other than as prescribed by a physician for personal use, any controlled drug and/or intoxicant or steroid at any time (see Year Round Expectations), whether during school, at any school activity, on school property, or at locations off school property.

ABUSE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE / ALCOHOL

(on school grounds, while representing the school or participating in a school sponsored activity)

per school department policy as cited in the Scituate High School Student Handbook

Any student in possession of, using, under the influence of, delivering or selling any controlled substance or alcohol, or in possession of drug paraphernalia on school grounds or while representing the school or participating in a school sponsored activity will be subject to severe penalties.

Controlled substances are as defined by General Laws of Rhode Island 21-26.

Any student violating this section with respect to Schedule I, II, or III controlled substances other than marijuana shall be subject to the following penalties:

- First Offense: not to exceed ten (10) days out of school suspension by the Building Administrator, Superintendent or designee
- Any subsequent offense: referral to the School Committee that may suspend for more than ten (10) days out of school or may expel.
- ***Additional penalties: Any student who is suspended pursuant to the above shall also be suspended for a period of time not to exceed ninety (90) school days from participating in or attendance at any after school or extracurricular activity including graduation ceremonies, except after school detention or extra academic help.***

Any student violating this section with respect to alcohol or any Schedule IV or V controlled substances or marijuana shall be subject to the following penalties:

- First offense: not to exceed five (5) days out of school suspension by the Building Administrator, Superintendent or designee.
- Second offense: not to exceed ten (10) days out of school suspension by the Building Administrator, Superintendent or designee.
- Any subsequent offense: referral to the School Committee, which may suspend for more than ten (10) days out of school or may expel.
- ***Additional penalties: Any student who is suspended pursuant to the above shall also be suspended for a period of time not to exceed forty-five (45) school days from participating in or attendance at any after school or extracurricular activity, including graduation ceremonies, except after school detention or extra academic help.***

Whenever in the judgment of the Superintendent an offense which ordinarily provides for a suspension not to exceed ten (10) days is so flagrant or serious as to render the penalty inappropriate, the matter shall be referred directly to the School Committee which may suspend for more than ten (10) days out of school or may expel.

Additional Implication for Athletes

Violations at School Sanctioned Events or During School

As a pivotal part of our consequences for chemical health violations, the student athlete and parent/guardian shall be required to complete an educational process that may lead to resumption of participation in athletic programs. If we fail to educate athletes and parent/guardians when such violations occur, we fail to help them learn from their mistakes and are negligent in our duties as an educational institution.

- The parent/guardian and student athlete must meet with a qualified chemical Health Specialist, counselor or social worker to discuss the magnitude and status of the chemical health of the individual.
- The parent/guardian and student athlete must meet with the SRO (School Resource Officer) to discuss the legal ramifications of the behavior of concern and to discuss the law and youth risk behaviors.
- In order to be reinstated to the team, the athlete and parent/guardian meets with the athletic director, coach, and administration.
- The student athlete must address the teammates and coach and admit to the violation, show remorse, and ask to return to the team while recommitting to provisions of the CODE by re-signing it in front of teammates and coaches.
- Failure by any parent/guardian to comply will result in the athlete being able to practice but not compete, provided the athlete has completed the process.
- Failure of any parent/guardian, student athlete to complete any part of this process will result in permanent suspension from any future involvement in athletics.
- The Student Athlete will forfeit their student athlete leadership position if they hold that position (see Student Athlete Leader section).

ABUSE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE / ALCOHOL OTHER THAN SCHOOL SANCTIONED EVENTS (Non-School Hours – Evenings, Weekends, Holidays, Summers, etc.)

Any student athlete in possession of, using, under the influence of, delivering or selling any controlled substance or alcohol, or in possession of drug paraphernalia **OUTSIDE OF A SCHOOL SANCTIONED ACTIVITY** will also be subject to severe penalties. Controlled substances are as defined by General Laws of Rhode Island 21-26.

Any student violating this section with respect to any controlled substances (Schedule I, II, III, IV, and V), marijuana, alcohol, or other substances shall be subject to the following penalties:

For a first offense:

- The Student Athlete will be suspended from the sport in which the athlete participates for fifteen (15) consecutive calendar days. After ten (10) days, the athlete may return to the team for practices only. The suspension must include at least the next two (2) scheduled league events of the season. The student will be reinstated for athletic

competition after the fifteenth day, once all the requirements have been met. This suspension will be completed during an athlete's season. If there is not sufficient time remaining in that season to complete the suspension, it will be carried over to the next interscholastic sport season in which that athlete participates.

- The parent/guardian and student athlete must meet with a qualified chemical Health Specialist, counselor or social worker to discuss the magnitude and status of the chemical health of the individual.
- The parent/guardian and student athlete must meet with the SRO (School Resource Officer) to discuss the legal ramifications of the behavior of concern and to discuss the law and youth risk behaviors.
- In order to be reinstated to the team, the athlete and parent/guardian meets with the athletic director, coach, and administration.
- The student athlete must address the teammates and coach and admit to the violation, show remorse, and ask to return to the team while recommitting to provisions of the CODE by re-signing it in front of teammates and coaches.
- Failure by any parent/guardian to comply will result in the athlete being able to practice but not compete, provided the athlete has completed the process.
- Failure of any parent/guardian, student athlete to complete any part of this process will result in permanent suspension from any future involvement in athletics.

For a second offense, in the same year or subsequent year(s):

- The athlete will be suspended from the sport in which the athlete participates for 45 calendar days (excluding summer vacation). After thirty-five (35) days, the athlete may return to the team for practices only.
- The parent/guardian and student athlete must meet with a qualified chemical Health Specialist, counselor or social worker to discuss the magnitude and status of the chemical health of the individual.
- The parent/guardian and student athlete must meet with the SRO (School Resource Officer) to discuss the legal ramifications of the behavior of concern and to discuss the law and youth risk behaviors.
- The Student Athlete will forfeit their student athlete leadership position if they hold that position (see Student Athlete Leader section).
- The student athlete must address the teammates and coach and admit to the violation, show remorse, and ask to return to the team while recommitting to provisions of the CODE by re-signing it in front of teammates and coaches.
- Failure by any parent/guardian to comply will result in the athlete being able to practice but not compete, provided the athlete has completed the process.
- Failure of any parent/guardian, student athlete to complete any part of this process will result in permanent suspension from any future involvement in athletics.
- Referral to an outside agency for counseling may be made upon the discretion of the

student's counselor or administration. If the athlete volunteers to become part of an approved chemical dependency or treatment program (at no cost to the Scituate School Department or Town of Scituate), the athlete may return to participation after a minimum of 20 days. Participation in this treatment must be certified in writing to the Athletic Director by a doctor or counselor.

For any additional violation in the same year or subsequent year(s):

- The student athlete will be suspended from all sanctioned athletic events (practices, scrimmages, and competitions) for 365 calendar days.

Offenses And Penalties Are Cumulative
Throughout The Experience Of The Student Athlete

Cigarette, Cigar and Smokeless Tobacco

Athletes who use tobacco products, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars or smokeless tobacco, will be in violation of school policy. This violation will be enforced whether during the school day, at a school activity, on school property or outside of a school sanctioned activity.

Use of Tobacco Products

per school department policy as cited in the Scituate High School Student Handbook

The Rhode Island Smoke-Free Schools Act, R.I. State Law 23-20.6-2, Smoking In Public Places, and Scituate School Committee policy prohibit students from smoking in school buildings, on school grounds, while traveling on buses to and from school, and at school-sponsored activities. The hazards of smoking are well documented. It shall be the purpose of this policy to set standards and guidelines which will assure school district compliance with state law while at the same time protecting the rights of students, employees, and the general public and creating an environment which serves to reinforce its efforts in the teaching about the hazards of smoking.

Any student found in violation of the above policy will be subject to the following disciplinary action:

- **1st offense:** one (1) day of ALC, a fine of \$50 payable to Scituate High School, and referral to School Resource Officer
- **2nd offense:** two (2) day of ALC, a fine of \$75 payable to Scituate High School, and referral to School Resource Officer
- **3rd offense:** three (3) days of ALC, a fine of \$100 payable to Scituate High School, and referral to School Resource Officer

Students who refuse to pay will be referred to the School Resource Officer.

The administration will confiscate *All* tobacco products when students are found to be in possession of such items. *ALL* smoking offenses will be referred to School Counselors.

Additional Implication for Athletes

In addition, any athlete will be subjected to the following penalties for offenses either in or out of school:

For a first offense, a student athlete will also be:

- suspended from all sanctioned athletic events and practices for seven (7) consecutive calendar days from the sport in which the athlete participates. After five (5) days, the athlete may return to the team for practices only. The suspension must include at least the next one (1) scheduled sanctioned event of the season. The student will be reinstated for athletic competition after the seventh day, once all the requirements have been met. This suspension will be completed during an athlete's season. If there is not sufficient time remaining in that season to complete the suspension, it will be carried over to the next interscholastic sport season in which that athlete participates.
- reinstated to the team, provided the athlete meets with the athletic director, coach and administration.

For a second offense, in the same year or subsequent year(s):

- a student will be suspended from all sanctioned athletic events and practices for 30 calendar days (excluding summer vacation).
- required to forfeit their athletic leadership position if they hold such position (see Student Athlete Leaders section).

For any additional violation in the same year or subsequent year(s):

- a student will be suspended from all sanctioned athletic events and practices for 365 calendar days.

Self-Referral

If the student were to self-refer to the school nurse, administration or to a staff member **prior to being involved in an incident concerning alcohol, drugs or tobacco use (any violation of the intent of this code)**, there would be no sanction imposed on the student at that time. Scituate School Department is committed to doing all possible to assist students/athletes who have self-referred. Self-referral is defined as a student approaching a counselor, administrator, or staff member independently without provocation and confiding in them the substances with which they are having a problem.

Year Round Expectations

The substance use policies of the Scituate School Department and Scituate High School are in effect year round, in and out of season, on and off the field, in and out of uniform for all student athletes. There is a reason for this

We care about the welfare of our student athletes.

We also expect a commitment from any student if they want to be involved in the athletic program at Scituate High School.

Presence at Parties where Alcohol and Drugs are Present

If a student athlete attends a party or event at which the student is aware that alcohol or drugs are being illegally dispensed, **the student athlete must leave the party immediately*** and report their attendance to a coach or administrator** before the end of the next school day or within 24 hours to be absolved from any implication of violation of the code. Self-referring students will not be required to provide additional information about the location, time and attendance at the party or event.

***** (LEAVING MEANS LEAVING IMMEDIATELY) *****

If the party or event occurs over the summer, the student athlete has 72 hours to report the concern to any school official or coach. (Leaving a detailed voice mail or e-mail is considered a report.) Following these procedures exactly exonerates the innocent athlete assuming that the athlete is not frequently showing up at these parties or that there is no corroborative information to indicate delinquent involvement. However, a student athlete failing to report attendance will be judged to have been in possession or guilty by presence.

If the student athlete is detained or witnessed by authorities (police, administration, coaches, etc.) at a party/gathering where alcohol or drugs are present and does not leave immediately before being questioned, then he/she will have been determined to have not been “leaving immediately”.

Self reporting can include direct communication, detailed voice mail to the school’s main number, or email to a school official.

Athletes Who Host Lose The Most

There will be a greater consequence for any student athlete, if it is determined that they were involved in the organization, facilitation, promotion, or hosting of any gathering or social event where alcohol or drugs are available or where use has occurred. The penalty for hosting shall begin at the second offense violation status (penalty for athletes).

If we allow our athletes to be present in this illegal environment, we promote and allow the possibility for them to be involved in this illegal culture.

Serving the Suspension from Athletic Participation

Any student who is suspended will serve the suspension immediately during the sport season that they are currently participating. This includes preseason, regular season and playoffs. For athletes suspended between seasons or in the “off season”, the suspension will begin as soon as a player has competed try-outs for a team. The try-out period for a team will be pre-

determined before the season begins. It will be determined by the administration, athletic director and coaches. Once a team roster has been determined and the players name is on the roster, the suspension will begin. If the player serving a suspension is listed on the roster, they will serve the suspension and successfully return to the team. The student athlete **must** complete the season of that sport in order to be considered having completed the suspension.

Any student athlete who is dismissed from a team due to team rule infractions, academic eligibility, school rules or quits a team before the completion of the season, will be considered not having served the Code of Conduct suspension from athletics. They will serve the suspension during the next sport season they choose to participate.

Cyber Images

Any identifiable image, photo, or video which is determined to be a valid portrayal and implicates a student athlete to have been in possession of or in the presence of alcohol and/or drugs, or portrays actual use, or crime, shall be confirmation of a violation of the code of conduct. Since there is no way to establish a timeframe for when or the location of where the image was taken, it shall be a responsibility that the student athlete must assume. It must also be noted that there may be persons, who would attempt to implicate an athlete, by taking such images, to place them in a situation where they might be in violation of this code standard. Athletes must take every precaution to not place themselves in such an environment.

Student Athlete Leaders (Captains)

Student athlete leaders (captains/co-captains) will be held to the highest standard of behavior. Any student athlete in a leadership role will face greater consequences for violations of the code than team members because they chose to be an example for their peers through this leadership.

Student Athlete Leaders will be appointed by coaches with team input. Candidates must submit a letter of interest and meet with the team's head coach. Prior to the selection of leaders, athletes will be informed by the coach of the criteria for selection and obligations of the position. The position of team Leader is one of honor, leadership, and responsibility. As a result, students serving in that capacity are expected to conduct themselves in an exemplary manner both in and out of school.

Any student involved in a second violation of the code of conduct that results in a suspension from school, or any student who is in the presence of, in possession of, or found to be involved with drugs, steroids, alcohol, weapons, or crimes outside of school, will lose the ability to serve as leader of any school-sponsored athletic team for a period of one calendar year.

Any student holding the position of student athlete leader of a Scituate High School athletic team involved in a violation of the code shall serve a second offense penalty (athletic penalty) and will have that position rescinded and be ineligible to serve as a team leader for a period of one calendar year.

Appeals Process

Any suspension issued as a result of this Code of Conduct may be appealed. This appeal must be submitted before 8:00 AM the day the suspension is to be served to the School Principal.

Other Guidelines for Athletic Participation

Attendance

Athletes who are absent from school may not participate on the day of the absence. Athletes are expected to be in school during the whole day throughout the athletic season. This means students must be on time and in class by 7:50 AM. Athletes missing or late to school for reasons other than legal, medical appointment, funeral, college visits, or at the discretion of the administration, must be excused in advance of the absence in order to participate. Student athletes must be in school on Friday in order to play in contests on the weekend. They also must be in attendance the last day of school before a holiday, long weekend or a vacation in order to play in contests during that time unless the absence is excused in advance by the Principal or his designee. If a student is absent on the day preceding the weekend, holiday or vacation period, they must miss one scheduled contest during that period.

Physical Education Participation

Student athletes must participate in their scheduled physical education class in order to practice or play in a contest. Students who do not participate in physical education class on a given day may not practice or play in an athletic contest that day.

Transportation To and From Games

Student athletes must take the bus to away contests. If a student athlete cannot make the team bus, they must be excused, in writing, prior to the scheduled event by the Athletic Director. Excused athletes are only allowed to participate in that contest if they are driven by their own parent or guardian. If an athlete misses the team bus, they may be driven to the contest by their own parent and it is the coach's decision on whether or not the athlete participates in the contest. If the athlete drives him/herself to the game or arrives with someone other than their own parent or guardian, the coach, at their discretion, may decide that the athlete may not play in the contest. Student athletes are expected to return home by the team bus. Exceptions to this must be cleared, in writing, prior to the contest by the Athletic Director and/or Administration and students are only allowed to travel with their own parent or guardian.

School Issued Equipment and Uniforms

Student athletes are responsible for the school issued equipment and uniforms. Uniforms are only to be worn during actual contests or on game day. They are not to be worn in physical education class or for practice. Uniforms and equipment are due back to the head coach within one week of the final game. Failure to return issued equipment and uniforms will result in detention and the student will be billed for any lost equipment or uniform.

Conflicts in Extracurricular Activities

Athletes who attempt to participate in several extracurricular activities will, undoubtedly, be in a position of a conflict of obligations. Athletes must notify the advisors/coaches involved immediately when a conflict does arise. When a conflict arises, the advisors/coaches will work out a solution so those students do not feel caught in the middle. If a solution cannot be found, the principal or his designee will make the decision based on the following:

- the relative importance of each event;
- the importance of each event to the student;
- the relative contribution the student can make;
- how long each event has been scheduled; and
- a conversation with the athlete and/or parents.

Once the decision has been made and the student has followed that decision, he/she will not be penalized in any way by either advisor/coach. If it becomes obvious that students cannot fulfill the obligation of a school activity, they should withdraw from that activity. Any academic subject or obligation supersedes any athletic event and students cannot be penalized for their participation.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR ATHLETIC AWARD

To qualify for an athletic award, a student must:

- be a member of a team at the conclusion of the season;
- follow the rules of the Athletic Manual and Code of Conduct;
- be in compliance of this Code of Conduct at all times, and
- not have been dismissed from a team for any reason.

Dismissal from a team may be appealed per the Athletic Manual and Code of Conduct.

STUDENT ATHLETE – PARENT/GUARDIAN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PAGE

(Tear Off Page)

Year Round Expectations
The substance use policies of the Scituate School Department and Scituate High School are in effect year round, in and out of season, on and off the field, in and out of uniform for all student athletes.

Student Name: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN

By signing this document, I _____ (parent/guardian), indicate that I have knowledge, understanding and agreement to the standards set forth in this Athletic Handbook and Code of Conduct

so that my student, _____ can be afforded the privilege of representing Scituate High School as a student athlete.

I am also aware that any violation on the part of my student of any of these standards shall result in the consequences contained within this handbook.

Parent Name (Please Print): _____

Parent Signature: _____ **Date** _____

STUDENT ATHLETE

By signing this document I, _____ indicate that I have knowledge, understanding and agreement to the standards set forth in this Athletic Handbook and Code of Conduct in order to be afforded the privilege of representing Scituate High School as a student athlete. I am also aware that any violation on my part, of any of these standards, shall result in the consequences contained within this handbook.

Student Name (Please Print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

This page must be completed and returned to the Athletic Director prior to any athletic engagement and must be renewed on a yearly basis.