



OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Home of the BRAVES

ATHLETIC

Code of Conduct

PHILOSOPHY

Interscholastic athletics is an integral part of the total educational program of the Octorara Area School District. The purpose of the athletic program is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well-being of each student-athlete, while teaching them sportsmanship, commitment, sacrifice, teamwork, and hard work. The Octorara Area School District's school board, administrators, teachers and coaches/advisors are committed to excellence and providing the best opportunities for students. Student-athletes must keep in mind that they are often in the public eye and that their personal conduct must always be above reproach. They have an obligation to create a favorable image and to gain the respect of their peers and adult citizens of the community.

DEFINITIONS

Athletics – the program of interscholastic athletics shall include all activities relating to competitive or exhibition sport contests, games or events involving individual students or teams of students when such events occur between schools within this district or outside the district.

EXPECTATIONS

In addition to the expectations outlined in the Octorara Area School District Student Handbook, the following expectations are in place for all student-athletes.

1. Student-athletes are the responsibility of their coaches until the organization returns to the junior/senior high school. When returning from an event student-athletes are expected to leave the premises immediately. No student may be released by a coach prior to returning to the school unless prior approval was granted by the Athletic Director or Principal. Participants are strongly encouraged to travel with their team at all times. We are striving to promote unity and loyalty

2. Student-athletes are expected to attend and participate in all practices, games, and team events. The only excusable absence from practice, games or team events is an emergency situation or one previously approved by their coach. Below are some examples of emergency situations:
 - a. A death in the family
 - b. Automobile accidents
 - c. Illness and not in school

Below are some examples of absences that would receive approval from the coach assuming prior notification was given:

- a. College visit
- b. Medical appointments
- c. Religious observances
- d. Any other situation that the coach considers acceptable

An unexcused absence is an absence in which the coach did not have prior knowledge. An emergency situation would be an exception to this rule.

3. Equipment issued for practice and competition should be cared for properly. Loss or failure to turn in equipment at the end of the season will result in payment to replace it.
4. Berating or criticizing officials/judges will not be tolerated. Doing so is immediately considered a Level II or III violation and will result in the consequences outlined below.
5. Being ejected from a competition is immediately considered a Level II or III violation. Consequences outlined below along with PIAA consequences will be implemented.
6. Students are expected to:
 - a. Uphold and exemplify our mission:



- b. Understand that their actions are representative not only of themselves, but also the entire athletic program.
 - c. Represent the School District, community, and themselves in a positive manner.
 - d. Show respect for all in authority as well as for all facilities, property, and equipment.
7. Students are expected to follow all school rules while riding to and from events. Standing or moving about the bus/van is considered unacceptable behavior and will result in the consequences outlined below.
8. Any student who is in ISS or OSS may not attend athletic events that day.
9. Student-athletes must abide by the OASD Athletic Health and Safety Plan failure to do so is considered a Level II violation.

The following consequences will be implemented if a student-athlete's misconduct occurs while participating in an interscholastic athletic event, including, but not limited to, a practice, game, competition, team dinner, team meeting, and traveling with a team. Violation of the code of conduct may result in additional school discipline.

Level I – Student Misconduct Violation

Disciplinary Response: Suspension from 1 competition/contest.

- Unacceptable behavior
- Outspoken disrespect
- Obscene gestures/profanity-minor
- Lying/forgery
- Horseplay

- Late to practice without notifying the coach, unless deemed an emergency situation.
- Use/possession of personal electronics including beepers, pagers, cell phones, and other devices during practice or games without permission. (Forfeiture until returned to parents.) Refusal to relinquish the device will result in a Level II violation.
- Inappropriate display of affection
- Any other behavior deemed inappropriate by administration

Level II – Student Misconduct Violation

Disciplinary Response: Suspension from 2 competitions/contests.

- Continuation of Level I violations
- Obscene gestures/profanity-major
- Harassment/threatening of a student
- Fighting (verbal)
- Physical altercation
- Instigating conflicts with/between other students
- Violation of social restriction
- Insubordination
- Disrespect toward coach, administrator, event staff, game official
- Misuse/abuse of school property (restitution made if applicable)
 - Possession or use of tobacco products (see smoking code)
- Leaving practice/competition without permission
- Unexcused absence from practice/competition
- Ejection from competition (PIAA guidelines will be followed)
- Gambling (any game or action that results in an exchange of money, goods, favors, etc.)
- Any other behavior deemed inappropriate by administration

Level III – Student Misconduct Violation

Disciplinary Response: Expulsion from the athletic team.

- Continuation of lower level violations
- Obscene gestures/profanity directed toward a staff member
- Threatening a coach or staff member
- Assault
- Violation of the school district's drug and alcohol policy (see drug & alcohol

policy)

- Arson or false alarms
 - Theft
 - Bomb threats
 - Falsifying documents/tampering with records
 - Making terroristic threats
 - Vandalism
 - Ethnic, religious, sexual slurs; written, verbal, or drawn (meant to be demeaning to others)
 - In appropriate comments referring to a person's physical or mental disabilities ●
- Any act punishable under the PA Crime Code or any other legislative enactment, state or federal.
- Any other behavior deemed inappropriate by administration

Level III violations are of a nature that their commission represents a violation of the law and are subject to civil and/or criminal penalties. A local law enforcement agency shall be notified about offenses in this category. The administration may consider an offense in the Level III category serious enough to be a threat to the health, safety or welfare of others. In such cases, a recommendation will be made to the school board for expulsion from school for the first offense. If need be, restitution for damages will be required.

ELIGIBILITY

Student-athletes are expected to be present and on time for all practices and games. If you will be late or miss a practice or game, you must notify the coach and receive permission in advance. Failure to do this will be considered an unexcused absence. An excused absence may be granted due to illness, death in the family or an emergency situation. A student who will miss a practice or game because of a school sponsored activity must submit a written request to the coach at least three days prior to missing in order to be eligible for the event in question.

If a student leaves school due to illness, he/she may not return that day to practice or play in a game.

A student must be in school by 9:00 a.m. in order to practice or play in a game unless he/she has written approval from the principal or athletic director or a doctor's note..

When attending an evening athletic event, student-athletes will not arrive more than 15 minutes prior to or depart more than 15 minutes after the event has ended. Athletes remaining at school for late practices or evening contests are to report to their coach and remain under his/her supervision until the practice or contest begins.

Athletes may not participate in more than one sport per season without the consent of both coaches and athletic director.

The School Board recognizes the value of athletic participation for our students and believes it to be an integral component of the program offerings that we provide. The Board also realizes that participation in athletics is a privilege. Students must maintain satisfactory performance in the classroom to participate on an athletic team. Academic performance is monitored on a weekly basis (Monday through Sunday) through the office of the athletic director. An academic eligibility report is distributed to the coaching staff every Saturday during the season. Each coach is responsible for notifying the ineligible athlete and applying intervention measures. While a student-athlete is ineligible, he/she may not participate in competitions. Once an athlete has been identified as being academically ineligible, his/her status will not change during that week. . According to P.I.A.A. rules and school policy:

- Any student-athlete with two (2) or more failing grades on the weekly report the **first** time during a season are ineligible to participate in athletic contests.
- Student-athletes who are determined to be ineligible on the weekly report a **second** time during a season may not practice or compete in contests.
- Student-athletes who are determined to be ineligible on the weekly report a **third** time during a season will be dismissed from the team for the remainder of that sports season.
- Student-athletes who have two (2) or more failures on their **report card** will not be permitted to practice or compete for the first 15 school days of the next marking period.

At the end of the school year, any student-athlete who is **not promoted to the next**

grade level will not be able to compete in a fall sport, but may apply to the athletic director for permission to compete in the winter and spring seasons upon a review of academic progress. The exception to both the promotion rule and the 4th marking period rule will be students who successfully complete summer school courses to improve their academic standing and achieve promotion. See the chart below for further details on timelines.

STUDENTS WITH TWO (2) OR MORE FAILURES

| Marking Period | Result |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1 st | Suspended from competition for first 15 school days of second marking period starting the day report cards are mailed. |
| 2 nd | Suspended from competition for first 15 school days of third marking period starting the day report cards are mailed. |
| 3 rd | Suspended from competition for first 15 school days of fourth marking period starting the day report cards are mailed. |
| 4 th | Suspended from competition for first 15 school days of first marking period starting the first full day of school. Students may not compete in any game or scrimmage before the first day of school but may practice. |

Athletic Code of Conduct Signature Form

We have read the Athletic Code of Conduct. We understand the guidelines, rules and philosophy of the athletic program. In understanding that our signature does not signify agreement with all areas, it does signify that we will do all we are capable of to help follow and enforce these expectations.

Student-Athlete's Name: _____

Sport: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Print)

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Please return to head coach prior to participation