



Dear Student-Athlete and Parents/Guardians:

As a candidate for participation in the interscholastic athletic program of the Spencerport Central School District, it is our hope that you will soon be a member of our outstanding program. It is very important that the student-athlete and the parents/guardians understand, agree to, abide by and reinforce the essential policies in regards to athletic training and behavior rules. These regulations have been established for the benefit of those who participate as players, students, and representatives of our community.

Participation in athletics demands a commitment which implies sacrifice and dedication to physical fitness and conditioning. Respect for one's health, physical development, and conduct must be an integral part of daily living. Unfortunately, education and reasoning alone are not always sufficient to deter poor decision making involving chemicals and behavior. Therefore, in an effort to provide clear understanding, the Spencerport Athletic Department requires all of its participants to agree to and abide by the following student-athlete code of conduct.

A) CHEMICALS: Drugs (chemical substances) are a health hazard and are having a large negative effect in our society. Significant findings in health research, along with publicity surrounding deaths and arrests of professional, college and high school athletes, have most certainly pointed out the undesirability of using chemicals (tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, steroids, any performance enhancing food supplement [e.g. creatine], and any other controlled substance), especially at the teenage level. Our athletic program and staff, as well as the National Federation of State High School Associations, wholeheartedly endorse these findings.

First Offense: A first offense by any student-athlete who is found in possession of and/or using tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, steroids (e.g. androstenedione), any performance enhancing food supplement (e.g. creatine), any other controlled substance, any type of drug related paraphernalia or misusing any other drug (anytime during the year * in school or out of school) will be suspended for 20% of the total number of contests of that season. A conference will be held with the student-athlete, his/her parents/guardians, the coach, and the Director of PE/Athletics/designee. The student-athlete will be allowed to practice during the suspension from games and will also be referred to their respective school counselor and chemical dependency counselor for a consultation.

Second Offense: A second offense by any student-athlete previously suspended from any Spencerport Central School athletic team (grades 7-12) will result in a suspension for 50% of the total number of contests of that season. A conference will be held with the student-athlete, his/her parents/guardians, the coach, and the Director of PE/Athletics/designee. The student-athlete must also participate in, and complete, a Spencerport Athletic Department approved chemical dependency evaluation. The student-athlete must submit written proof of completion of the evaluation and adhere to treatment recommendations in order to regain and maintain full eligibility. The student-athlete will be allowed to practice during the suspension from games.

Third Offense: A third offense by any student-athlete will result in automatic suspension from all athletic participation for a period of one calendar year from the date of the violation. A conference will be conducted with the student-athlete, parents/guardians, coach, and Director of PE/Athletics/designee. The student-athlete and family must also participate in, and complete, a Spencerport Athletic Department approved chemical dependency evaluation. The student-athlete and family must submit written proof of completion of the evaluation and adhere to treatment recommendations in order to regain and maintain full eligibility. The student-athlete will not be allowed to practice during this suspension.

B) BEHAVIOR: Inappropriate behavior, as defined by the SCS Code of Conduct and any involvement with police including accusations and/or arrests anytime during the year* in school or out of school will result in a disciplinary review and the student-athlete will be subject to suspension from athletic contests and or dismissal from the athletic program. The student-athlete will be allowed to practice during the suspension. The student-athlete is responsible for informing their coach of any disciplinary action within 24 hours. Failure to do so will result in further consequences.

C) SPORTSMANSHIP: Student-Athletes and parents are expected to behave in an orderly manner while attending sports events throughout the year. All negative and potentially harmful behaviors as outlined by the NYSPHSAA, Section V, MCPSAC and/or SCS are prohibited. It will be the discretion of the Athletic Director to review all matters or sportsmanship violations regarding athletes behavior, in conjunction with NYSPHSAA, Section V, MCPSAC regulations.



Any spectator who violates this code will be issued a "Yellow Card" as a warning and/or be removed from the contest site. If a spectator is asked to be removed from an event, he or she will automatically be suspended for a minimum of one game.

D) HAZING: Hazing in any form, including initiation which is degrading, is strictly forbidden by NYS law. No student shall conspire to engage in hazing, participate in hazing, or commit any act that causes or is likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, personal degradation or disgrace, resulting in physical or mental harm to any fellow student or other person. It is understood that hazing of any kind is not allowed on this campus or in athletics. It is further understood that we have a duty to report any acts of hazing that we see or know of to a coach or administrator and participation in or failure to report any hazing will result in a disciplinary review and possible suspension and dismissal from the athletic program.

*Please note: These student-athlete code of conduct training and behavior rules are in effect from July 1st to June 30th of each year and cover twenty-four (24) hours/day, seven (7) days a week. The suspension will be for the sport in which the student participates and may carry over to their next sport of participation. All appeals are to be made in writing as per the Appeal Process.

E) APPEAL PROCESS**:

Level 1 – If the offense is a minor one and the coach has issued the consequence, the appeal is made directly to the coach. If not satisfied, then the parent may progress to Level 2. If the Athletic Director has issued the consequence, the appeal process begins at Level 2.

Level 2 - If the offense is major, and involves the Athletic Director, the appeal is made to the Athletic Director. If not satisfied, the appeal may progress to Level 3.

Level 3 – The parent will request a Level 3 appeal to the Athletic Director. The Superintendent or his/her designee will convene a Level 3 appeal panel consisting of: a district level administrator, a school building administrator, a varsity coach and a counselor. If the Superintendent or his/her designee desires more information than the existing written documentation, both the parents and Athletic Director will be provided an opportunity to speak to the appeal panel. The decision of the appeal panel is final.

**Please note: All appeals are to be made in writing. A parent may only appeal his or her son/daughter's consequence or the process used in the investigation. A parent may not appeal another student's consequence.

F. CONCUSSIONS: Student-Athletes and parents are expected to follow the mandatory minimum six-step return to play protocol if the student-athlete is diagnosed with a concussion either by their own physician or by the district athletic trainer. By signing below, we acknowledge receipt of the NYSPHSAA Student and Parent Information Sheet entitled Concussions: The Invisible Injury. This is available for review at www.nysphsaa.org.

Failure... to sign and return will result in the student-athlete not being able to participate in athletic competition/contests. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Sincerely,

Jen Placito

Director of PE/Health/Athletics