

STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT



The actions of a student-athlete are a direct reflection of themselves, their parents/guardians, their team, and their community. A student-athlete's involvement in SAHSSA Athletics, provides opportunities and experiences that are important to the development of a well-rounded student-athlete. Because participation in SAHSSA Athletics is a privilege, a high standard of conduct will be expected both on and off the field or court.

Student-athletes shall follow this code and avoid any actions which may lead to an unfavorable view of the student-athlete, their teammates, coaches, family, SAHSSA Athletics, or the community. Any alleged violations will be subject to review by the coaches, commissioners, Athletic Administrator, Executive Director, and SAHSSA Board and may result in subsequent action. This listing is not intended to be all inclusive, as SAHSSA Athletics reserves the right to make final determination of what conduct is considered unsatisfactory.

- Bullying (physical, emotional, or electronic), hazing, or harassment
- Disorderly or destructive actions
- Unsportsmanlike conduct
- Profanity, vulgarity, obscenity, offensive speech and/or gestures
- Any posting or communication via social networks or media outlets (Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, blogs, etc.) which advocates the violation of any SAHSSA Athletics policy and/or team policy would be considered unacceptable and inappropriate.
- Dishonesty in any form, including lying, theft, or cheating
- Gambling
- Defiance of authority including flagrant disrespect, disobedience, and/or rebellious or disrespectful attitude.
- The possession and/or distribution of literature, pictures, posters, or recordings presenting an indecent or immoral activity or ungodly belief or philosophy. This includes distribution of sexually suggestive material via cell phones, cameras, computers, or "sexting" of any kind. The definition of sexting is the sending, receiving, or forwarding sexually explicit or suggestive messages, photos, or images via cell phone, computer or other digital or electronic devices.
- Sale, possession, and/or use of tobacco (this includes electronic cigarettes and vapor products), alcohol or illegal drugs (including any prescription drugs not prescribed to the student-athlete), marijuana, or other controlled substances or the implied use of these.
- Attending or hosting a party that involves alcohol, illegal drugs, marijuana, or other controlled substances. It is the obligation of the student-athlete to immediately leave the premises once they learn a gathering or party involves alcohol, drugs, etc.
- The use of, possession of, or the distribution of anabolic/androgenic steroids or other performance enhancing substances
- Immoral conduct, immodesty and conduct implying immorality
- Use or possession of weapons and/or dangerous items at any athletic event to include guns, knives, explosive devices, etc.
- ● Any violations of the law

PARENT/GUARDIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

It is important that you understand the important role you play as a parent/guardian of a SAHSSA Athletics student-athlete. You and your student-athlete represent your family and our program.

Parents/Guardians shall follow this code and avoid any actions which may lead to an unfavorable view of themselves, coaches, family, SAHSSA Athletics, or the community. Any alleged violations will be subject to review by the coaches, commissioners, Athletic Administrator, Executive Director, and SAHSSA Board and may result in subsequent action. This listing is not intended to be all inclusive, as SAHSSA Athletics reserves the right to make final determination of what conduct is considered unsatisfactory.

As the parent/guardian of a SAHSSA Athletics student-athlete, I agree with the following:

- **Be positive and encouraging.** Uplift your student-athlete, coaches, team, commissioner, and SAHSSA.
- **Teach your students/athletes to abide by the rules of the game in letter and spirit.** Tactics promoting unfairness will not be tolerated. Ensure that your student-athlete is being homeschooled in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas.
- **Develop good relationships with your student-athlete and their teammates.** Your student-athlete has been placed on this team for a purpose. Use this opportunity to minister and encourage others. You never know who is hurting and needs your show of love in their life.
- **Develop good relationships with other parents/guardians.** You need their support as much as they need yours!
- **Develop good relationships with the coaches.** Get to know them. Communicate with them with an open heart and mind. Set appointments to meet with them rather than approaching them before or after games or practices. Be open, honest and use respectful words. Inform the coach and/or commissioner if your student-athlete does not maintain a satisfactory academic level.
- **Help your student-athlete develop unity within their team.** Teach them to respect the seriousness of their commitment by making sure they attend all practices, meetings, games, and team building opportunities.
- **Do not use profanity, questionable slang or “trash talk.”** Anything that can be construed as negative, or insulting must be avoided.
- **Never criticize coaches or officials.** Officials and coaches represent authority and obedience to their authority is not predicated on whether one agrees with it or not. If you “bad mouth” your student athlete’s coaches or officials, you cannot expect them to play for or respect these individuals.
- **Never be involved in negative cheering.** Booing officials or opponents or getting into negative chants sets a bad example for your student-athletes and is counter to all we say and believe at SAHSSA Athletics. Examples might include chanting “Air Ball” when the other team misses a shot or screaming while an opponent is on the free throw line.
- **Never speak negatively around student-athletes or other parents/guardians about:**
 - **SAHSSA Athletics:** a negative atmosphere is contagious. Instead, create a positive atmosphere of gratitude.
 - **Other student-athletes or parents/guardians:** speak to parents/guardian only about you and your student-athlete(s). Speak to student-athletes only in an encouraging manner.
 - **Your student-athlete’s teammates:** this only allows your student-athlete to make excuses for their own performance. Do not offer excuses for your student-athlete if they are not playing. Encourage them to do their best and to keep striving for worthwhile goals.

- **Always resolve differences with coaches privately.** Call to make an appointment to speak with the coach privately, honoring the “24 Hour Rule” and following the *Matthew 18:15-17* principle. Think about what you will say and what is motivating your discussion.
- **Maintain class and character.** Your actions reflect upon you, your family, and SAHSSA Athletics. You set the example for your student-athlete. Refrain from the use of tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, and illegal drugs before and during all SAHSSA Athletics activities.
- **Be an example and a guard.** Set the standard high for behavior and appearance. Do not be afraid to speak in love to those whose behavior might undermine SAHSSA Athletics reputation.
“Speak the truth in love.” Ephesians 4:15
- **Always dress appropriately.** Modest attire that does not attract attention to you and away from your student-athlete should be worn.
- **Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.** Both parents/guardians and spectators need to be strong in this area. Smile and shake hands with visitors before and after games regardless of the outcome.
- **Recognize the success of your opponent.** Compliment good play of student-athletes from the opposing team. Congratulate their coaches on a well-coached game.
- **Insist that your student-athlete follow instructions.** Coaches depend upon a player’s ability to follow orders immediately and without question. Questions may be raised at an appropriate time such as at practice or after games when there is a time for explanation. This builds respect for authority and trust between student-athletes and coaches.
- **Work with the officials...do not work against the officials.** Badgering officials works against our teams and comes at the price of our testimony and ability to influence others. There is never a time at any contest where a parent/guardian is afforded an opportunity to say anything to an official other than, “Thank you.” Without these men and women and their willingness to officiate, there would be no game.
- **Remain in the stands.** Never attempt to approach the field, court, bench, press box, score table or officials before, during or after a game. Socially visiting with coaches briefly after the game is encouraged. Game officials are off-limits.
- **THIS IS A GAME!!! Have fun, touch lives, and grow yourself!** You can be a positive influence, like no one else may be able to, in the lives of your student-athletes and their peers. Enjoy this time in their lives and help them to enjoy it as well. Games, plays and officials will all be forgotten, but your behavior and attitude will stay with your student-athlete forever.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Anyone who fails to conform their conduct to the General Rules or the Code of Conduct while participating in a Saints sports event will be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to the following in any order or combination:

- Disciplinary action will almost always include an apology to the people that may have been hurt or affected by inappropriate behavior.
- Verbal warning
- Written warning
- Suspension or immediate ejection from a youth sport event
- Suspension from multiple Saints sports events
- Season suspension or multiple season suspension

Students and parents should bring concerns, should they arise, to their coach(es) attention first. If they are not resolved satisfactorily at this level, students and parents should bring their concerns to

the Team Manager Director representative from the board. If the concerns are not resolved at this level, parents, coaches, or the Team Manager Board representative may bring those concerns before the SAHSSA board.

DISCIPLINARY MEASURES/INCIDENT REPORT

When an individual violates policy or rules, a parent, coach or anyone involved in oversight may submit an incident report. The incident report is used as documentation for disciplinary measures that may need to be carried out by the SAHSSA Board. Incident reports must be filled out online.

SAHSSA Board reserves the right to make final determination of what conduct is considered unsatisfactory. As we consider these matters, may we be mindful of the following verses:

*“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, **HOLY AND PLEASING TO GOD**—this is your true and proper worship...so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” Romans 12:1 & 5 (NIV)*