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| Student Athletic Code Handbook |

The primary purpose of the athletic program in the South Pekin Grade School is to promote the physical, mental, social, emotional and moral well being of the participants. We hope that athletics in our school will be a positive force in preparing our young people for an enriching and vital role in our society. The athletic program is considered an important and integral part of the total school program and is open to participation by all students in 5th – 8th grade. Voluntary participation ensures, the athlete gives time, energy and loyalty to the athletic program.

The student also accepts the training rules, regulations, and responsibilities that are unique to an athletic program. In order to contribute to the good of the program, the athlete must assume these obligations as the role demands sacrifices not required of other students. In addition to the Student Athletic Code Handbook, student athletes are also governed by the discipline code of the the school.

Athletic Department Mission Statement

 The mission for South Pekin Athletics is to provide a competitive and developmental athletic program, while promoting and embodying the ideals of teamwork, sportsmanship, hard work, self-discipline, and commitment. Developing the student athlete’s character through a positive and supportive environment increases self-confidence and therefore is essential to personal success.

Athletic Department Philosophy

The South Pekin Athletic Philosophy is one that encourages and allows for participation by all students. We aim to promote character and teach many values to our students. Among the values that help our athletes and competitors to become responsible adults include sportsmanship, leadership on and off the field, commitment to one’s team, critical thinking during practice and competition, time management, self­-discipline, and enjoyment. We believe that students will gain these and other values by taking part in the South Pekin athletic program throughout their career. Our goal is to challenge our student athletes to strive to be on and off the field. In truth, what really is important about athletics is to have fun, to fight adversity, to risk failure, to get up when you are knocked down, to compete as hard as you can, not to use excuses, and to learn how to win and lose gracefully.

Athletic Offerings

**FALL**

Girls’ Softball

Boys’ Baseball

Boys’ Cross Country (CO-OP with Rankin, we host)

Girls’ Cross Country (CO-OP with Rankin, we host)

**WINTER**

Boys’ Basketball

Girls’ Basketball

Cheerleading

Girls’ Volleyball

**SPRING**

Boys’ Track and Field

Girls’ Track and Field

\*\*Student Athletes should consider time, interests, academic responsibilities, and team requirements before committing to a team. Some middle school sports are very competitive and team selection and playing time cannot be guaranteed.

Middle School Athletic Goals

The role of interscholastic athletics is to provide educational experiences in the framework of competitive athletics. By focusing on educational outcomes and student learning, athletics can provide avenues for physical, emotional, and intellectual growth. The educational outcomes for participation in athletics are as follows:

A. Physical Growth

a. Achieving personal fitness

b. Learning to cope with stress

c. Learning participation skills

d. Learning good health habits

B. Emotional Growth

a. Gaining self-confidence, self-worth, and self-discipline

b. Learning to accept criticism

c. Learning to accept success and failure

d. Learning a sense of pride in achievement

C. Social Growth

a. Developing interpersonal relationship skills

b. Developing a sense of responsibility to a group

c. Learning to win and lose graciously

d. Learning sportsmanship and fair play

e. Learning respect for teams, opponents, coaches, and officials

f. Representing yourself, your team, and your school in a positive manner

D. Intellectual Growth

a. Learning commitment to a goal

b. Learning time management skills

c. Developing skills and strategies to support academic and athletic achievement

Athletics at South Pekin Grade School will promote participation of the student body in more than one activity. The athletic programs will focus on teaching the rules of the game, and help to enhance the student’s education by teaching the following principles:

**Sportsmanship**

**Teamwork**

**Integrity**

**Discipline**

**Judgment**

**Decisiveness**

**Initiative**

**Commitment**

**SECTION I**

**Rules and Regulations for Student Athletes**

It is important to recognize that while participating in interscholastic athletics, athletes are still governed by school rules and policy. Students may receive disciplinary action such as detention, suspension or expulsion for offenses committed during athletic play.

**A.** **IESA Rules** followed as minimal regulations where more stringent district, league, school or team rules are not specified.

**B.** **Duration of the Athletic Code** The rules and regulations in this code shall apply to any violations from the time that a student­ athlete becomes eligible for participation in athletic contests sponsored by the school until the student­ athlete leaves South Pekin. **The code of conduct for athletes is in effect 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, year round.**

**C.** **Supplemental Rules and Regulations** Supplemental rules and regulations unique to a given sport may be implemented upon the approval of the principal and athletic director provided that they are not in conflict with the athletic or student codes. These rules will be presented to participants in writing prior to the start of the season, except under special circumstances as approved by the athletic director. Violation of these rules may be cause for disciplinary action by the coach or principal.

**D.** **Conduct of the Athlete** Any civil law infraction, arrest, vandalism associated with athletic equipment and facilities or conduct by a student­ athlete determined by school to be detrimental to the athletic program, school, or school district can result in disciplinary action as severe as dismissal from the team.

**E.**  **Hazing** South Pekin Athletic Department does not condone, nor will we tolerate the hazing of students involved in any athletic activity on or off of school property.

1. Any and all reported incidents of hazing will be investigated by the administration on an individual basis. Any student who is found to have participated in the hazing of another student will be disciplined. The disciplinary action will include a meeting with the student and their parent/guardian and may be as severe as expulsion from school and a permanent loss of athletic privileges at SPGS.

2. Hazing is defined as any type of initiation procedure for any school related activity, which involves conduct such as but not limited to:

A. illegal activity;

B. physical punishment or infliction of pain;

C. intentional humiliation or embarrassment;

D. dangerous activity

E. activity likely to cause mental or psychological stress;

F. forced detention or kidnapping;

G. undressing or otherwise exposing initiates.

**F.**  **Sportsmanship/Language/Conduct** Athletes must exhibit good sportsmanship both in and out

 of competition by showing respect for opponents, officials, coaches and other people.

 \*\*Any student who is ejected from a contest will be ineligible for participation in the next

 contest. Athletes may be subject to additional discipline deemed appropriate by the

 superintendent.

**G.** **Alcohol, Drug, and Tobacco Use** The possession or use of alcoholic beverages, drugs, or tobacco products shall fall under the following regulations which pertain to all students involved on an athletic team. (*Note: Student­ athletes are expected to avoid association at activities where the illegal use of alcohol or drugs is present. The student­ athlete must make a conscious effort to leave the area or situation when they realize that a controlled substance is being used or is in their presence.)*

1. Athletes will be disciplined whenever referral made to the coach and/or school administration based on (1) being caught in the act by school personnel, parents, or authorities (2) police report or court action brought to the attention of school personnel (3) self­-admittance resulting from investigation of an incident.

2. Violation of the rule involving the possession, association with, or use of alcoholic beverages, drugs, or tobacco products will result in the following:

**First Offense**: Dismissal from the athletic team. The dismissal may be waived at a reinstatement hearing set by the building principal or their designee involving the athlete, the parent or guardian. The athlete and parents must have enrolled the student ­athlete in a school­ approved program providing assessment and treatment for substance abuse related problems. The school district will not be financially responsible for enrollment in this program. Upon notification of enrollment in an approved program by one of the program’s counselors, the athlete may be reinstated to team membership status after serving a suspension from all team activities for a period of 14 days. There will be no guarantee of playing time upon the athlete’s return from suspension.

**Second Offense**: An athlete involved in a second offense will be suspended from athletic participation for one calendar year.

**H.** **Student Athlete Conduct In School** Athletes are expected to adhere to all school rules and regulations. Failure to comply with school and individual classroom rules may result in disciplinary action by the athletic department, coach or principal.

**I.** **Suspension from School** Athletes suspended from school (whether In-School or Out-of-School) are **removed from the team** and are not permitted to attend practices or games at any facility, home or away, during the period of their suspension.

**J.** **School Attendance on Day of Contest** to participate in a contest, students must have attended half of the school day preceding the contest. Prior arrangement must be made with the athletic director if a student must be absent any part of the day of a contest before the player is permitted to participate.

**K.** **Attendance at Mandatory Practices** Unexcused absence (detention, skipping, etc.) or tardiness to practice will be handled by the coach and will result in dismissal from the team on the 2nd unexcused absence. **A student must be in attendance at school for a minimum of 3 hours to participate in a practice.** The coach of each sport will decide the practice time for each sport. Parents should be prompt in picking their child up at the end of practice.

\*\*Missing Games- 2 Unexcused (1st Benched for next game- must attend, 2nd dismissal from

the team.

**L.** **Sunday/Holiday Practices** Sundays should remain a day free of student activity.

**M.** **Practices on Inclement Weather Days** At no time will the Athletic Department demand that an athlete place their safety or the safety of anyone else in jeopardy. Practice sessions will not be held on days that school has been cancelled because of inclement weather unless the athletic director has given clearance. If practice is allowed, it will be considered non-mandatory. Practices scheduled

 over holiday breaks shall not be considered mandatory.

**N.** **Participation in More Than One Sport** Once an athlete has started practicing in a sport, they may not change to another sport during that season without permission from the athletic director and both coaches. If an athlete is cut from a team in one sport, they are able to try

out for a team in another sport.

**O.** **School Equipment-**It is the responsibility of the student athlete to return all school issued equipment to the appropriate coach within one week of the last team event. Equipment should be returned clean and any needed repairs noted at return. Any lost, stolen, damaged or non­-returned equipment and uniforms are the financial responsibility of the student. They will not be permitted to participate in any other extra­curricular activity until equipment is returned or reimbursement is made.

**P.**  **Athlete Appearance** Athletes are expected to wear clean uniforms and to adhere to the district’s expectations for personal grooming practices. Boy’s haircuts are expected to include hair that is off of the neck and out of their eyes. The coach will provide a physical example if necessary.

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**Q.** **Uniform Care** Uniforms are school property and, as such, students are expected to care for them responsibly. Students are to change into and out of the uniform at the game. No piece of the uniform is ever to be worn outside of school or at any practice. Charges will be assessed if the uniform is damaged.

**SECTION II**

**Eligibility for Participants**

**A.** **Enrollment** A student must be enrolled at South Pekin Grade School. The student must also live

in the home of the parent or guardian.

**B.** **SPGS Eligibility Requirements** Middle school students must meet the eligibility and

participation guidelines listed below to be eligible to participate in interscholastic events. IESA has a no pass no play policy which means students cannot be failing any class and still play. Eligibility runs from Monday morning through Saturday morning and is reported to the student on Monday morning.

1. Students wishing to participate in extracurricular activities must have the approval of all their classroom teachers regarding conduct, work habits, suitability to serve as a role model for others, etc.

2. Ineligible students are expected to be at mandatory practices and team meetings, but will not be permitted to dress, sit or travel with the team during contests.

3. Students may be removed from the team/activity at any time, including during the season, upon the determination of the principal that either grades or conduct are deteriorating.

**C.** **Physical Examinations** A student ­athlete must have a current physical on file in the athletic office prior to competing in any athletic practice or contest. There are no exceptions to this rule. The physical will be good for one year only and a new one will be required ***each year***. Physicals are good for all sports for the entire school year.

**D.** **Parent Permission and Emergency Medical Authorization** A student­-athlete must have a current parent permission and emergency medical form on file in the office. This form is good for all sports for the entire school year.

**SECTION III**

**Athletic Awards**

**A.** School awards for athletic participation will include a letter issued for the first sport and pins for

 each sport thereafter.

**B.** Any athlete dropped from team membership for disciplinary reasons will not be eligible to

 receive any awards established for members of the team. Athletes dismissed from the team will

 not be considered to have completed the season in good standing or to have met the awards

 requirements.

**SECTION IV**

**Appeals Procedure for Athletes**

**A.** In cases of dispute, athletes and parents are asked to consult with the coach involved to resolve the

 dispute.

**B.** Decisions by the coach should be appealed to the athletic director if there is not relief received in

 consulting with the coach.

**C.** Decisions of the athletic director may be appealed to the principal.

**D.** All decisions of the principal are final in matters pertaining to athletics.

**SECTION V**

**Participation Fees for Athletes**

While the school has not established a designated participation fee, students in extracurricular activities at South Pekin may be required to purchase items they will need (shoes, socks, etc.) These fees are usually under $100 and will be due prior to the first contest for each sport fee. Students who have not paid their fees will not be able to participate in a contest or receive their purchased items until their fees have been paid.

Fees are not refundable unless a student has been cut from a team. Voluntary withdrawal, lack of playing time, academic ineligibility, or disciplinary actions taken by the coach or administration will not be the basis for refunding fees.

\*\*If a student’s family has financial difficulty in paying participation fees, that student will not be denied the opportunity of participation. Any student who wishes to participate but is unable to because of financial hardship should contact the athletic director. Fees can be delayed or partially or fully waived in exchange for services provided to the district.

**SECTION VI**

**Parent/Coach Communication**

**A.** **The Parent Coach Relationship**

 Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an

 understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of others and

 provide greater benefit to the student. As parents, when your children become involved

 in our programs, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your

 child. This begins with clear communication from the coach.

**B.** **Communication You Should Expect for Your Child’s Coach**

1. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all players on the squad.

2. Locations and times of practices and contests.

3. Team requirements such as fees, special equipment and offseason conditioning.

4. Procedures should your child be injured during practice and/or competition.

5. Written team rules and guidelines.

**C.** **Communication Coaches Expect From Athletes**

1. Notification of any scheduled conflicts in advance.

2. Special concerns in regards to a coach’s philosophy or expectations.

3. Reporting to coach about academic eligibility and discipline issues.

**D.** **Appropriate Concerns to Discuss With Coaches**

1. The physical and mental treatment of your child.

2. Ways to help your child improve.

3. Concerns about your child’s behavior.

\*\* It is very difficult to accept that your child is not playing as much as you may hope. As

you have seen from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your

child’s coach. Other things, such as the following must be left to the discretion of the coach.

**E.** **Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss With Coaches**

1. Playing Time

2. Team Strategy

3. Play Selection

4. Other Student Athletes

\*\* There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent.

These meetings are encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear

understanding of the other’s position. When these conferences are necessary, the

following procedures should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of

concern.

**F.** **Conferences with Coaching Staff**

1. Call to set up an appointment.

2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the athletic director. He will setup a meeting for you.

3. Please DO NOT attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for the parent, athlete, and coach. Meetings of this nature seldom promote positive resolutions.

**G.** **What Can a Parent do if the Meeting with the Coach Did Not Provide a Satisfactory**

 **Resolution?**

1. Call and set up an appointment with the athletic director to discuss the situation.

2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.