

# **ATHLETIC CODE SARANAC COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

Representing the Saranac Community Schools in interscholastic athletics is regarded as an honor and a privilege. All students who take part in interscholastic competition must fully understand that adherence to all parts of the Athletic Code is an essential condition to participation. **Specific incidents of behavior or academic problems not covered in the Athletic Code are subject to the review and disciplinary action of the administration or coach.**

The purpose of the Athletic Code is not to restrict freedom, but instead to encourage the athletes to practice and develop a greater appreciation for the values associated with responsible behavior, healthful living, and good citizenship.

The athletes are reminded that they are frequently before the public and that their actions may either enhance or downgrade the public's general opinion of athletes and athletics. Athletes should strive for the type of behavior and quality of character that will make them a credit to their team, coach, school, and community.

## **Coverage**

- A. Student athletes will be governed by the Athletic Code from the first day of involvement in interscholastic athletics through graduation. (This means during, as well as between sports seasons.)
- B. All athletes, managers, and other students who act as support personnel and who are in grades 7 through 12, must adhere to the principles of the Athletic Code.
- C. Athletes may appeal the decision of the Athletic Director to the athletic council. The council is composed of one administrator, two coaches, two athletes, and two parents.

## **Sportsmanship**

In school, out of school, and out of town, conduct of the highest degree should be the goal of all athletes and/or spectators. Courtesy and sportsmanship will be extended to all opponents, officials, or persons in authority at all times. The following are unacceptable behavior as outlined and will result in action taken by the athletic director and/or his designee.

- Use of inappropriate language
- Flagrant or illegal use of physical force
- Damage to property at any school
- Disrespect for any coach, official, opponent, etc.

# RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

## Eligibility – 7 to 12

1. A student must earn passing grades in 66% of all subjects at the end of each semester in order to be eligible for athletics the next semester according to **MHSAA** standards. Eligibility will be checked at the end of each semester. A student who is ineligible at the end of the spring semester may make up classes during summer school. Each class must be approved by the principal as an acceptable makeup class for a class in which a student was deficient for the spring semester. The grades for these classes will determine the final grades for the spring semester and used to determine eligibility for the fall. All ninth grade students will be eligible to try out for fall sports.
2. For students in grades 7 to 12, eligibility checks will be conducted (by the Athletic Director) every **two (2) weeks**. Eligibility will have two areas of evaluation, for academic achievement (grades) and for behavior and attitude in the classrooms.

At the time of the eligibility check, if a student is:

**Failing One Class** - The student will be placed on “probation” for one week. While on probation, the student will be allowed to participate in practices and contests while working to improve his/her grade.

If, after one week, the student is still failing one class, the student is ineligible for contests for a minimum of one week. Following that week, the student may be reinstated as soon as the student has achieved passing status in all classes.

**Failing Two Classes** – The student will be suspended from contests for a minimum of one week. Following that week, the student may be reinstated as soon as the student has achieved passing status in all classes. During this time, the student is expected to participate in practices.

**Failing Three Classes** – The student is suspended from practices and games for a minimum of one week. Following that week, the student may be reinstated as soon as the student has achieved passing status in all classes. During this time, the student may not participate in practices.

Online classes will be considered as part of an eligibility check. Students must be “on track” to complete any online classes by the completion due date. Any online class that is behind will be considered a failing grade.

The Athletic Director will check the grades of probationary/ineligible athletes every Monday. Otherwise, it is the student’s responsibility to report to the Athletic Director, if they have achieved passing status in all classes and would like to return to participation in athletic practices/contests.

3. Any student who is ineligible three times in a season will **may** be removed from the

team. In selecting members for a team, a coach/sponsor may NOT cut an eligible player in order to keep a player who is currently ineligible.

4. Eligibility checks will be conducted on Mondays.

### **RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR ATHLETES**

Below is a list of requirements and rules governing persons participating in athletics. Violations of the Athletic Code will result in appropriate consequences as outlined in the Student Handbook.

1. In school, out of school, and out of town, conduct of the highest type should be the goal of all participants.
2. Courtesy and sportsmanship will be extended to all opponents, officials, or persons in authority at all time.
3. Before athletes can practice or participate, they must pass a doctor's physical exam and have the form filed with the school annually (per MHSAA guidelines, physicals must have been conducted after April 15<sup>th</sup> in order to be valid).
4. All equipment is the responsibility of the person to whom it is issued. All lost or ruined equipment is to be paid for by the athlete. All equipment must be turned in or paid for before a student may participate in another sport.
5. Before athletes can practice, they and their parents must sign the Saranac High School Athletic Code form and have it on file with the school.
6. Eligibility lasts for four years.
7. Athletes must be under nineteen (19) years of age on or before September 1st of the current school year
8. Amateur status must be held at all times. An athlete may receive no merchandise, money, or awards for participation in any athletic event, even if sponsored by an agency other than the school.
9. Athletes must not accept any award for athletic performance other than an emblematic award. The value of an emblematic award may not exceed fifteen dollars (\$15.00).
10. Athletes must not participate in any athletic competition during the season in a sport not under the sponsorship of Saranac Community Schools, after he/she has represented his/her school in that sport.
11. Any student going out for a team must be out at least one week before they can compete. (Special cases are at the discretion of the Athletic Director and may be appealed to the athletic council.) This rule does not apply to transfer students who have been participating in athletics.
12. Athletes are not permitted to possess, distribute and/or use alcohol, tobacco, or drugs (including performance-enhancing drugs or PEDs). If the Athletic Director determines that an athlete has violated this rule during the calendar year, then the parents and the athlete will be notified in writing. For possession and/or use of alcohol and tobacco, the athlete will be suspended for one-third of their scheduled season dates (all fractions are rounded up to the next whole number). Drug possession (including PEDs) and/or use will result in the athlete being suspended for one calendar year (as defined in the high school student handbook).
  - Attendance at an illegal party or get-together at which alcohol or other illegal

- drugs are being consumed or used will be considered a violation of this policy. If an athlete is proven to have been in attendance at such a party for any length of time, the athlete will be suspended for one-third of their scheduled season dates. If it can be proven beyond a reasonable doubt, the student athlete was not participating in any illegal activity; the suspension may be reduced up to 50% by the Athletic Director (all fractions are rounded up to the next whole number).
- If an athlete violates the illegal substance rule a second time, he/she will be suspended from all athletics for one calendar year. The second violation of drug possession and/or use will result in permanent suspension from athletics. The Athletic Director may reduce this suspension if the athlete participates in a rehabilitation program.
13. If an athlete is guilty of violating civil law or rules of acceptable behavior or conduct, the Athletic Director will administer an appropriate penalty. Minimum penalty of 1/3 of the season to permanent suspension.
  14. Consequences for violations of these athletic policies will be carried over from one season and/or one school year to the next if it is impossible for the punishment to be enforced during the current school year.
  15. Unless **prior approval** is granted by the Principal or Athletic Director, an athlete must be in attendance **the entire day** in order to practice or play. Consequently, athletes are expected to be in attendance the entire school day following a contest.
  16. Athletes must practice and attend all team functions while on suspension for violating training rules (any deviation of the suspension is at the discretion of the Athletic Director and coach). He/she must ride the bus and sit with the team at the contest. He/she may not wear any part of their uniform for any contests.
  17. If for any reason an athlete feels the need to terminate his/her association with a team it must be communicated with the Athletic Director and coach. Appropriate measures will be taken to retain the athlete. If the athlete leaves the team without being released by the coach and/or Athletic Director, then he/she will forfeit one-third (1/3) of the next sports season in which he/she participates. This applies if the athlete terminates his/her association with the team after cuts have been made, or one week before the first scheduled contest. This policy may be waved if a parent, due to extenuating circumstances, decides the student athlete can no longer keep their association with their team. This is at the discretion of the Athletic Director, coach, and building Principal.
  18. Letter Requirements:
    - a. Coaches will establish requirements to receive a letter (certificate for non-varsity sports) prior to the beginning of the season. These requirements must be approved by the Athletic Director and communicated to the athletes and their parents prior to the season.
  19. All athletes are expected to ride to and from athletic contest on the team bus. Only in unusual situations may they ride with their parents, and only with prior approval of the coach and/or Athletic Director. While riding the team bus, athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a proper manner.
  20. Violation of school rules not covered in this policy will be handled at the discretion of the Athletic Director or Principal.
  21. If an athlete in grades 7-12 has been assigned an in-school suspension for any part of the day he/she must forfeit half of that day's athletic contest.
  22. **No athlete will play in a contest until the pay-to-participate is paid in full (unless other arrangements have been made with the Athletic Director).**

## ATHLETIC POLICY CONTRACT

My signature is evidence that I have read and do understand the Saranac Schools Athletic Code and agree to abide by it.

Student  
signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

My signature is evidence that I have read and do understand the Athletic Code of Saranac Schools. I will, to the best of my ability, see that my son/daughter abides by this code.

Parent  
signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### TRANSPORTING STUDENTS BY PRIVATELY-OWNED VEHICLES

It may be necessary to transport students in privately owned vehicles driven by the coach or parents of athletes. This form is to get your approval and remove the liability factor.

I hereby give permission for my son/daughter, \_\_\_\_\_ to ride in a privately owned vehicle.

I understand the coach will supervise the activity but because of transportation problems, it is necessary to transport the team by parents.

I hereby relieve the Saranac Community Schools of all responsibility beyond that of normal supervision.

Parent  
signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student  
signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(In order for an athlete to participate, this signed permission slip must be on file with the school.)