

# **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ATHLETES**

## **STUDENT PLEDGE**

All participants in athletics have received a copy of the Code of Conduct for athletes, which should be read by the parents as well as by the athletes. The pledge, which follows, summarizes the major features of the Code and is designed to permit the athlete to indicate his or her willingness to abide by the standards and sanctions of the Code.

### **STANDARD 1 – SATISFACTORY SCHOOL CITIZENSHIP**

Adheres to all rules of conduct of the school, shows proper respect for students and family, works for the betterment of the school and sets aside personal interests and gains in favor of those of the school.

### **STANDARD 2 – ADHERENCE TO PRESCRIBED TRAINING RULES**

Adheres to specific training rules set forth by the coach, refrains from smoking and taking non-prescribed drugs and appreciates the importance of rest, diet, and exercise. Practices a healthful habit of cleanliness and personal hygiene.

### **STANDARD 3 – CONDUCT BECOMING AN ATHLETE**

Refrains both from immoral conduct considered unacceptable by the community and from violating state statutes and borough or township ordinances. Does not use profanity and refrains from any action or conduct that reflects unfavorably upon athletes and the school.

### **STANDARD 4 – ADHERENCE TO STANDARDS OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP**

Shows respect in defeat and modesty in victory. Is courteous to officials, teammates, opponents and coaches. Employs legal tactics as apply to the rules of the game.

**Coaches, school administrators and the athletic council will act on cases that come to their attention which involve behavior on the part of the athlete that is contrary to the standards as herewith stated.**

# **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ATHLETES**

AS A MEMBER OF A SAYRE AREA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC TEAM YOU ARE EXPECTED TO UNDERSTAND THAT **THE REAL ATHLETE:**

- 1. UNDERSTANDS THAT DRINKING, SMOKING AND THE USE OF NON-PRESCRIBED DRUGS ARE HARMFUL TO THE BODY AND HINDER MAXIMUM EFFORT AND PERFORMANCE.**
- 2. DOES NOT USE PROFANITY.**
- 3. REALIZES THAT OFFICIALS DO NOT LOSE A GAME BUT ARE THERE FOR THE PURPOSE OF INSURING THAT BOTH TEAMS RECEIVE A FAIR DEAL. FOR THIS THEY DESERVE COURTEOUS RESPECT.**
- 4. PLANS HIS/HER TIME SO THAT SUFFICIENT ENERGY IS DEVOTED TO HIS/HER STUDIES TO INSURE THE BEST POSSIBLE GRADES.**
- 5. HAS A GOOD ATTENDANCE RECORD AND SHOULD NEVER BE TRUANT FROM CLASSES OR SCHOOL.**
- 6. WORKS FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE SCHOOL AND WHAT IS RIGHT AND GOOD FOR HIS/HER FELLOW STUDENTS.**
- 7. OBEYS THE SPECIFIC TRAINING AND PRACTICE RULES OF THE COACH.**
- 8. DIRECTLY REPRESENTS THE COMMUNITY, SCHOOL, COACHES AND DISPLAYS PROPER CONDUCT WHEN TRAVELING.**
- 9. CARES FOR ALL EQUIPMENT AS THOUGH IS WAS HIS/HER OWN PERSONAL PROPERTY.**
- 10. DOES NOT EMPLOY ILLEGAL TACTICS TO GAIN UNDESERVED ADVANTAGE.**
- 11. DOES NOT LET EMPLOYMENT INERFERE WITH PRACTICE AND GAMES.**
- 12. APPRECIATES THAT COACHES AND ADMINISTRATORS HAVE THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN MIND AS THEY PLAN AND CONDUCT THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM.**
- 13. APPRIECIATES THE IMPORTANCE OF PROPER DIET, REST AND EXERCISE.**
- 14. PRACTICES HEALTHFUL HABITS OF CLEANLINESS AND PERSONAL HYGIENE IN HIS/HER DAILY ACTIVITIES.**
- 15. COMPLIES WITH THE STANDARDS OF THIS CODE OR IS SUBJECT TO DISMISSAL FROM THE SQUAD OR OTHER DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AS MAY BE DETERMINED BY THE COACH.**

**Dear Parents/Guardians of students who are planning to participate in Extra/Co-Curricular and Athletic Activities:**

**Our school board and our fellow coaches, advisors and directors from neighboring school districts as well as other school districts in Pennsylvania have identified areas of concern relating to the overall conduct of students who represent our schools by participating in extra/co-curricular and athletic activities. Consequently, we would like to take this opportunity to initiate a communication that will hopefully be of benefit to all of us.**

**We are vitally concerned about all aspects of a student's academic and social life. Among our many concerns, we find the troublesome subject of alcohol and illicit drug use including the use of anabolic steroids. Sayre Area School District coaches, advisors, and directors are eager to enlist the support and active involvement of parents to eliminate beer parties, drunk driving, recreational drug use, and participant enhancement through steroids among Sayre Area School District students.**

**Sayre Area School District in its policies, programs, regulations, and actions prescribes and enforces rigid penalties against students who are involved in illegal drugs and alcohol use when such is officially reported. Be assured that Sayre Area School District coaches, advisors, and directors support these rules as stated in the School Districts Drug and Awareness and Substance Abuse Policy Addendum and will take immediate appropriate action whenever evidence of student involvement of alcohol, drug, or anabolic steroid use exists. We are concerned about the young people who represent Sayre Area School District in academic pursuits and in extra/co-curricular and athletic activities. We believe we should do more than just be concerned, however. We believe we should take action. One of our first acts must be to ask for your help. Therefore, we urge you to do everything possible to discourage drinking and recreational substance abuse. In addition, we suggest the following actions:**

- 1. Refuse to serve alcoholic beverages at teenage parties. (If a parent is convicted of this offense, the fine can be substantial and there may even be a prison sentence.)**
- 2. Do not permit teenage guests to bring alcoholic beverages to parties in your home. (The first offense for a teenager can result in a fine plus a 90 day suspension of his/her driver's license even though no driving is involved.)**
- 3. Tell other parents that you do not approve of parties where alcoholic drinks are served.**
- 4. Encourage other parents to chaperone at teenage parties and volunteer to help.**
- 5. Plan "family outings or activities" throughout the year and expect that your son or daughter will participate with the family.**

**If you do take these actions, it will be less likely that the school district will have to take the following disciplinary actions for off campus illegal substance abuse activities when students are officially reported as participating in them:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Offense**

- 1. Completion of mandatory drug and alcohol assessment**
- 2. Extra-curricular ban of five events or three weeks, whichever comes first once the season begins**
- 3. Participation in practices must continue and participants must sit on the bench suited up during game/event time where applicable**
- 4. Drug and alcohol intervention program participation and S.A.P. follow-up if required by assessment results.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Offense**

- 1. Completion of mandatory drug and alcohol assessment/screening**
- 2. One-half school year extra-curricular ban**
- 3. Drug and alcohol intervention program completion and S.A.P. follow-up if required by assessment/screening results**
- 4. assessment/screening results**
- 5. No practices and no participation in events**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Offense and All Offenses Thereafter**

- 1. Completion of mandatory drug and alcohol assessment/screening**
- 2. Full school year extra-curricular ban**
- 3. Drug and alcohol intervention program completion and S.A.P. follow-up if required by assessment/screening results**
- 4. No practices and no participation in events**

**Any student who voluntarily admits to a substance abuse (including alcohol) problem prior to being arrested or reported to school authorities if no arrest was made and who agrees to accept help in whatever form the school district deems necessary, shall be allowed to remain active/participate in their extra co-curricular activities as long as said student is being helped. If the student withdraws from help prior to being officially released, the above disciplinary actions shall apply as appropriate.**

**Any student who has received an extra-curricular ban under these guidelines, but does not violate any part of Policy #227 or its addendums for one year after the completion of that ban, shall on the next offense be treated the same as on the previous offense.**

**Any student who violates this policy and does not comply with the above shall be banned from participation in all extra-curricular activities indefinitely or until he/she does comply with Policy #227 and its addendums.**

**The required length of extra-curricular ban is based on school time when extra-curricular activities are conducted. Vacation time is not counted in the ban unless extra-curricular activities are conducted over that time. The time in summer from one week after school ends until the fall sports programs begin is not counted in bans. Winter recess, however, is counted in bans because athletic activities are conducted then. As a consequence of this time arrangement, extra-curricular bans may start in one school year and end in another as well as cut across sports seasons.**

**We also urge you to discourage the use of anabolic steroids for purposes of body building, muscle enhancement, increasing muscle bulk or strength or the enhancement of athletic ability. None of these purposes are considered valid medical purposes and the use of anabolic steroids for these purposes is prohibited by Act 93. In addition to the actions and penalties in Policy #227 and its addendum, the following minimum penalties are prescribed for any student found in violation of the prohibition:**

- 1. For a first violation, suspension from school athletics for the remainder of the season**
- 2. For a second violation, suspension from school athletics for the remainder of the season and for the following season**
- 3. For a third violation, permanent suspension from school athletics and possible Suspension/expulsion from school**

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Students performing in a school sponsored activity **must be present by 9:35 A.M. on the day of the event.** If the event is scheduled on a Saturday, the student **must be present by 9:35 A.M. on the day preceding the event.** Released time from class for a school activity may be denied for any students who are academically ineligible or have poor attendance.

**ELIGIBILITY IS PULLED ON FRIDAY MORNINGS AND IS BASED ON A STUDENT'S ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE. IF INELIGIBLE, THE PERIOD OF INELIGIBILITY RUNS FROM THE SUNDAY FOLLOWING THE FRIDAY TO THE NEXT SATURDAY.**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_  
(Birth Name Only)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

IS THIS YOUR    1<sup>ST</sup>    2<sup>ND</sup>    3<sup>RD</sup>    4<sup>TH</sup>    YEAR ON THE TEAM?

**RETURN THIS SHEET WITH YOUR PAPERWORK**

**This letter was written because we care about your son or daughter. We believe that caring parents don't place minors in danger. We believe you should take a strong stand on this topic. We welcome your suggestions. Please be assured that we will do all we can do to help protect your son or daughter from mistakes related to alcohol or illicit drug use. Thank you for your cooperation.**

**Please sign below to indicate your agreement with the above.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**

**Please have your son or daughter sign below to indicate that he or she understands the no use stand which this letter is asking you to take.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**STUDENT SIGNATURE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**

I have read and understand this pledge as it applies to the **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ATHLETES** and I will exert every effort to refrain from any conduct or actions that are contrary to it.

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ **ATHLETE SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_

I/We support the ideals of the **CODE OF CONDUCT** and the standards of behavior set forth in this **PLEDGE**.

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ **Parent/Guardian Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN THIS SHEET WITH YOUR PAPERWORK**