

South Hadley Athletic Department

Athletes/Parent Manual

South Hadley High School
South Hadley, MA

Student Eligibility

1. The standards of eligibility will be governed by rules established by the MIAA and the South Hadley School Committee.
2. Students will be required to successfully complete at least 28 credit hours of prepared work per marking period. In addition, students must receive passing grades in all subjects during the last marking period preceding the athletic season in which he/she wishes to take part in.
3. Any student who receives a failing grade on his/her quarterly report card that brings them below the minimum 28 hours of prepared, passing work, will be ineligible for participation in athletics, co and extra-curricular activity.
4. Any student who is absent from school on a particular day is ineligible to participate in extra-curricular activities until school attendance is resumed (this includes Friday absence for a Saturday game) unless cleared by the Athletic Director and/or Principal.
5. A student must be in school by 8 am and cannot be dismissed from school unless the Athletic Director has written notification from a parent/guardian.
6. The principal and/or the Athletic Director have the authority to wave the rules in item 3 if extenuating circumstances apply. Any request for a waiver from item 3 must be communicated in writing through the Athletic Director or Principal 24 hours prior to the dismissal.

Responsibilities of Athletes

Athletes will:

1. Have a permission-to-play form (GREEN SHEET) signed by parents/ guardians and athlete.
2. Have the code of conduct signed
3. Have a physical within 13 months of the start of the season in which they intend to play and must present physical eligibility form to the athletic director.
4. Read and understand the student handbook on athletics.
5. Sign the conduct code for their team.
6. Be responsible for all equipment and uniforms issued to them.
7. Pay the users' fee before the tenth day of practice.
8. Cooperate with their coaches and team members.
9. Always display great sportsmanship and demonstrate self-control and emotional restraint with the team, opponents, officials, and fans.
10. Maintain the academic eligibility standards established by the MIAA and the South Hadley School Committee (28 credits).
11. Use transportation provided by the athletic department to all away games.
12. Follow all the rules governing athletics established by the MIAA and the South Hadley Public School Department.

Suspension or Disqualification of Athletes

1. Head coaches have the responsibility, within reason, to inform their athletes under what circumstances they may be subject to suspension or disqualification.
2. School policies, school rules and regulations, the rules and regulations established by coaches and given to each athlete in writing, rules contained in officiating manuals for various sports, and MIAA rules should be reviewed, when and where appropriate, by all coaches with their athletes.
3. Coaches must file a written report in specific detail with the Athletic Director concerning the suspension or disqualification by them of any of their athletes. This report should be filed no later than 2 p.m. of the next academic day following the determination by the coach to suspend or disqualify the athlete(s) involved.
4. The Athletic Director should notify the Principal of the receipt of the reports as soon as possible.
5. Suspend or disqualified athletes may choose to file an appeal for a combined hearing with the Principal, Athletic Director, and relevant Head Coach. If granted, such a hearing shall be held as quickly as can be mutually arranged among the parties involved.
6. Reasons for suspension:
 - a. Insubordination
 - b. Unsportsmanlike conduct
 - c. Breaking team rules
 - d. Failure to adhere to MIAA Code of Conduct
 - e. Continued failure to conform to the general Code of Conduct of the High School
 - f. Taunting

7. Chemical Health. Any student who is found to have violated the MIAA/SHHS chemical health rules will be suspended from sports, regardless if they are currently in a sport or plan to play. This includes the use of tobacco, alcohol, or vape products. First offense is 25% suspension of games for that season and a completion of the online course on the MIAA website. Second offense is 60% suspension of games for that season and completion of the online course on the MIAA website. Third offense is a one-year suspension from all sports and completion of the online course on the MIAA website. Suspensions do carry over from season to season.

TRANSPORTATION

1. The Athletic Director will make arrangements for transportation for all away games for all teams.
2. At least one coach will travel on the bus to and from all away contests.
3. Discipline on the bus is the responsibility of the coach.
4. It is the responsibility of the parents and guardians to provide transportation for all home games.
 - a. With the approval of the coach, parents will be allowed to take their athletes home after contests.
 - b. Transportation of students other than their own, by parents will not be permitted without permission submitted to the Athletic Director 24 hours in advance. ONLY in emergency situations will this be permitted.
5. The coach will not allow students to put any object or body part out of a bus window at any time.
6. Proper dress and language is required to and from all contests.
7. Students who show up at an away contest, who decide not to ride on the bus, will not be allowed to participate in that contest without prior authorization by the Athletic Director or Principal.
8. The Principal will determine whether alternate transportation can be provided for an away contest.

Chemical Health

PART I – CHEMICAL HEALTH RULE 62: Student (and Coach) Eligibility: Chemical Health/Alcohol/Drugs/Tobacco 62.1

From the earliest fall practice date, to the conclusion of the academic year or final athletic event (whichever is latest), a student shall not, regardless of the quantity, use, consume, possess, buy/sell, or give away any beverage containing alcohol; any tobacco product (including e-cigarettes, VAP pens & all similar devices); marijuana (including synthetic); steroids; drug paraphernalia; or any controlled substance. This policy includes products such as “NA or near beer,” inhalants (defined as any substance that produces a mind-altering effect when inhaled), and misuse of over-the-counter medications and substances used for the purposes of altering one’s mental state. The athlete also must meet with the school adjustment councilor as well as participate in a school-appointed substance program.

FIRST VIOLATION MINIMUM PENALTIES*: When the Principal confirms, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, that a violation occurred, the student shall lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic contests totaling 25% of all interscholastic contests in that sport. For the student, penalties will be determined by the current or next season of participation. No exception is permitted for a student who becomes a participant in a treatment program. It is recommended that the student be allowed to remain at practice for the purpose of rehabilitation.

SECOND & SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS AND MINIMUM PENALTIES: When the Principal confirms, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, that a violation occurred, the student shall lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic contests totaling 60% of all interscholastic contests in that sport. For the student, penalties will be determined by the current or next season of participation. If after the second or subsequent violations the student of his/her own volition becomes a participant in an approved chemical dependency program or treatment program, the student may be certified for reinstatement in MIAA activities after a minimum of 40% of events provided the student was fully engaged in the program throughout that penalty period. The high school principal in collaboration with a Chemical Dependency Program or Treatment Program must certify that student is attending or issue a certificate of completion. If student does not complete program, penalty reverts back to 60% of the season.

ADMINISTRATIVE CHAIN OF COMMAND

1. **Assistant Coaches**: The Assistant Coaches are directly responsible to the Head Coach.
2. **Head Coach**: The Head Coach is responsible to the Athletic Director and Principal and is responsible for the total operation of his/her respective sports program.
3. **Director of Athletics**: The Athletic Director is directly responsible to the Principal. He/she is responsible for the supervision and administration of the entire interscholastic athletic program. The Athletic Director provides the leadership necessary for the daily operation of the Athletic Department. The Athletic Director is responsible for carrying out and enforcing all South Hadley, PVIAC, and MIAA rules and guidelines. He/she is responsible for the direct supervision and evaluation of all coaches.
4. **High School Principal**: The official representative of the school, who is directly responsible for the total conduct of all athletic activities. The Principal is the official school representative in matters dealing with the MIAA and the PVIAC. He/she ensures that all MIAA guidelines and policies are followed.
5. **Superintendent of Schools**: Administers policy established by the school committee. The superintendent is responsible for hiring and dismissals of coaches.

COMMUNICATION AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Athletic involvement can be highly emotional and very time consuming. From time to time conflicts and issues between a student athlete and his/her coach may arise. It is imperative that any conflict and/or issue be addressed immediately, and as directly as possible so that it can be resolved promptly. Every effort should be made to resolve all issues at the lowest possible level:

1. Student-Athlete contacts coach
2. Parent of Athlete contacts coach

In order for the discussion between student or parent and coach to be productive, the following times to approach a coach should be avoided:

- • either prior to or immediately following a game
- • during a practice session
- • during a time when other teammates are present
- • a time when it is apparent that there will not be sufficient time to allow for a complete discussion

3. Athlete or parent contacts Athletic Director

**The Athletic Director will inform the coach that this meeting will take place.

If this discussion does not result in a satisfactory conclusion, then a meeting will be scheduled with all parties in an attempt to reach a satisfactory resolution.

4. Student and/or Parent contacts Principal

**The Athletic Director needs to be informed that this contact will be made.

Equipment

Athletes and their families are responsible for all equipment issued to them. Athletes who lose or damage the equipment will be required to pay replacement costs for comparable equipment. Athletes who do not pay replacement costs will be prohibited from participating in any other sports until the debt is paid.

End of the season evaluation. If the player/parent want to send their compliments or concerns about the coach, please fill out this survey and send to the Athletic Director.

Coaches Name: _____

1. The atmosphere of the practice sessions enhance player and team morale.
 Always Almost always Sometimes Seldom
2. There is mutual respect between coach and player.
 Always Almost always Sometimes Seldom
3. The coach demonstrates a sound knowledge of his or her sport.
 Always Almost always Sometimes Seldom
4. All material is presented in a clear and precise manner.
 Always Almost always Sometimes Seldom
5. Before or after practice, there is ample opportunity for exchange of ideas between player and coach.
 Always Almost always Sometimes Seldom
6. The coach attends every practice.
 Always Almost always Sometimes Seldom
7. The coach is on-time for practice.
 Always Almost always Sometimes Seldom
8. Practice sessions are well organized and demanding--both physically and mentally.
 Always Almost always Sometimes Seldom
9. The coach provides adequate explanation of new material.
 Always Almost always Sometimes Seldom
10. The coach treats each athlete as an individual.
 Always Almost always Sometimes Seldom
11. The coach sets clear rules and conduct expectations and is consistent in enforcing them.
 Always Almost always Sometimes Seldom
12. The team is well prepared for each contest.
 Always Almost always Sometimes Seldom
13. The coach demonstrates concern for my academic success.
 Always Almost always Sometimes Seldom
14. I would say that my overall experience with this team has been:
 Excellent Very Good Satisfactory Unsatisfactory
15. Did you attend all of the practices? YES NO
16. Did you meet with the coach to discuss your concerns? YES NO

Additional suggestions for improvement:

Before the athlete can participate in the sport, this form must be signed by both the athlete and parent/guardian. Please give to the coach.

I have read the South Hadley Athletic Departments "Athletes/Parent Manual" and I do hereby consent to the student athletes participation in athletics at South Hadley High School. By signing this form, I acknowledge I understand the handbook and agree to the policies set forth.

Please Print Athletes Name: _____

Athletes Signature: _____

Please Print Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Signature: _____

