

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETIC POLICY

Philosophy

Interscholastic athletics supplement and support the academic mission of the school system and assist students in their growth and development. Athletics assists in promoting the importance of teamwork, effort, goals, and commitment. Interscholastic athletics is highly competitive, but winning is not the primary measure of success. Sportsmanship, respect for participants, and dignity in the face of adversity are more important than the outcome of the contest. All athletes do not perform at the same level, but all can demonstrate effort, dedication, and fair play.

Sportsmanship

An important mission of the interscholastic athletics program is to teach and reinforce values relating to sportsmanship, competition, and fair play. It is expected that team personnel, parents, and spectators respect this mission by exhibiting appropriate behavior at athletic events, and follow all sportsmanship regulations in 14 DE Admin. Code § 1023.

Student Eligibility Requirements

Students must meet the following requirements to be eligible to participate. Participation of ineligible students shall result in individual and team sanctions, including forfeits for the team.

1. Students must submit a current *DIAA Pre-Participation Physical Exam*, and a *Student/Parent Athletics Participation Contract* before being allowed to participate in practices or contests.
2. All age, residence, enrollment & attendance, amateur status, academic and other eligibility regulations found in 14 DE Admin. Code § 1008 (2.0) & 1009(2.0) must be followed. They are available in the DIAA handbook located on the DOE Delaware website.
3. A student may not participate in a practice, scrimmage or contest when he/she is serving a suspension, Alternative Placement, Character Academic and Motivational Program (CAMP), or expulsion. The student becomes eligible to participate on the next school day following the suspension or completion of these programs.
4. Students must satisfy school and district Participation Standards.
5. Students and their parents must sign the school *Student-Parent Athletic Participation Contract and Parent Permission* form.
6. All Students must be in compliance with the state transfer law to ensure they are eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics.

Students are prohibited from using athletic status to promote or endorse a commercial product or service on the internet; in a newsprint, radio, television advertisement or any other form of media; or personal appearance.

Any athlete seeking endorsement or NIL (Name, Image and Likeness) must follow the strict guidelines set forth by the DIAA guidelines on NIL. Failure to do so may result in loss of eligibility.

Media requests for athletic related situations need to be approved by the school principal or their designee.

Assumption of Risk

Participation in interscholastic athletic activities often includes travel and intense competition and poses the potential for serious, catastrophic, or life-threatening injury. Participants and parents are urged to consider that there are inherent risks and hazards associated with athletic participation. Risks vary from sport-to-sport and can occur under direct supervision and with use of proper safety equipment.

Communication with Coaches

Parents should not attempt to address coaches immediately after games and practices. Coaches have many post game/practice responsibilities, including supervision of players. Also, the post-game/practice period is often emotionally charged, and not conducive to productive discussion. If a parent feels a need to communicate a concern, the parent should contact the coach and/ athletic director/principal to arrange a later meeting.

Dismissal From or Quitting a Team

Once an athlete begins practice in a sport and his/her squad membership is terminated for a reason other than being cut, he/she is ineligible to participate in any other sport during that season unless he/she is given prior approval by the athletic director and/or the administration after a thorough investigation of the case with all involved parties.

Participation Standards

Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege. Accordingly, students must meet certain standards in order to earn the privilege of participation. At a minimum, the following standards are required of all student-athletes.

1. Exhibit public behavior that will reflect positively on the team, school, and community.
Athletes should not be engaged in any activity that results in police intervention.
2. Exhibit responsible, respectful, and trustworthy behavior to teammates and the coach.
3. Exert efforts to maintain a high level of academic achievement.
4. Comply with all team, school, and school system rules, regulations, and policies.
5. Exhibit appropriate behavior at all team and school-related activities.
6. Attend all team functions unless ill or given prior permission to be absent by the coach.
7. Respect and comply with decisions made by the coach and athletic department.
8. Respect calls and decisions made by game officials.
9. Display good sportsmanship at all times.
10. Report to the coach any issues or developments that may affect eligibility status.

Illegal Substances/Alcohol/Tobacco/Steroids/Controlled Substances

All student athletes are expected to refrain from the use of all tobacco products, drugs, and alcohol, both at school and during non-school times. Parents are responsible to oversee and monitor their student's behavior while off school grounds and are expected to take appropriate, decisive action to identify and prevent non-prescribed use of these substances by their student.

The possession, use, or distribution of any of these substances on school grounds or at a school sponsored activity will result in additional serious disciplinary consequences as outlined in the district discipline policy JG available on the district web site.

Ineligibility does not include summer days. If there are penalties left at the end of the school year, the penalty will carry over to the first day of the next school year.

Participation on Outside Teams

A student may participate on a non-school team or in a non-school individual event both during and out of the designated sport season. However, the student owes their primary loyalty and allegiance to the school team of which the student is a member. A school shall have the authority to require attendance at practices and contests and students not in compliance shall be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the school.

Social Media

Personal web pages and other social media outlets are considered an extension of how you represent yourself. Any student who has pictures and/or information or acts/speaks in a derogatory way on personal web pages or social media will be held to the same standards as if acting in person.

General Discipline Policies and Procedures

The rules, policies, and procedures addressed in this policy do not cover every possible infraction. Any infractions not listed in this document will be covered by district policy, by School Discipline Policy and Procedures, and DIAA rules. Consequences for athletes not adhering to any rule, policy, or procedure will be implemented according to district policy, school rules, and DIAA regulations.

A review of State Attorney General reports by a committee consisting of the Assistant Superintendent, Administrator of Pupil Services, and principal of the school will be made to determine a student’s team status based on the charges and probable cause outlined in the report. Committee actions may include a verbal or written warning, suspension, or dismissal from the team.

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

**STUDENT – PARENT ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION CONTRACT
and PARENT PERMISSION FORM**

Student: _____ Student ID #: _____

Grade: _____ School Year: _____ Sport/Team: _____

Parent and Student-Athlete: Review this contract carefully (front and back), complete information as requested, affix signatures, and return the completed contract/permission form to the school.

Stipulations

The student-athlete and his or her parent/guardian have received and read the *Student-Parent Athletic Participation Information*. Based on this information, the student and parent/guardian understand and stipulate to the following:

1. I/We understand the eligibility regulations required for participation.
2. I/We affirm that the student has satisfied all of the eligibility requirements, including age, residence, and academics.
3. I/We understand that participation of ineligible players will result in individual and team sanctions, including forfeits for the team.
4. I/We affirm that the student will exert effort to maintain a high level of academic achievement.
5. I/We understand there is potential for serious, catastrophic, or life-threatening injury associated with participation in a sport and related travel.
6. I/We, as a participant or spectator, will exhibit a high level of sportsmanship at contests.
7. I/We will follow appropriate procedures in communicating concerns to coaches.
8. I/We affirm that the student will abide by all team and participation standards.
9. I/We affirm that the student will not use illegal or controlled substances, alcohol, or tobacco.

Residency Verification

Students must be legally enrolled at a high school/middle school. Please respond to the following residency questions:

I reside at			
_____	_____	DE	_____
Street Address	City		Zip Code

Permission to Participate

I/We hereby authorize and consent to our child's participation in interscholastic athletics and sports. We understand that the sport(s) in which our child will be participating is potentially dangerous, and that physical injuries may occur to our child requiring emergency medical care and treatment. I/We assume the risk of injury to our child that may occur in an athletic activity.

In consideration of the acceptance of our child by the Indian River School District in its athletic program, and the benefits derived by our child from participation, I/we agree to release and hold harmless the Board of Education, its members, the Superintendent of Schools, the principal, all coaches, and any and all other of their agents, servants, and/or employees and agree to indemnify each of them from any claims, costs, suits, actions, judgment, and expenses arising from our child's participation in interscholastic athletics.

I/We hereby give our consent and authorize the Board of Education and its agents, servants, and/or employees to consent on our behalf and on behalf of our child, to emergency medical care and

treatment in the event we are unable to be notified by reasonable attempts of the need for such emergency medical care and treatment.

Each year the Board of Education puts families in touch with a provider of a Student Accident Policy at a nominal premium. This insurance is secondary to the family's own insurance. Because accidents will inevitably occur despite our best efforts to maintain a high level of safety in all student activities, this insurance coverage is recommended unless the family deems that other insurance coverage (in force) will meet the needs of the student. The Board of Education Student Accident Policy is available anytime throughout the school year. The coverage may be obtained from the insurance carrier. Check one of the following.

- ____ Student covered by a secondary Student Accident Policy.
- ____ Student covered by a policy (family) which will pay expenses and no claim will be made on the school.
- ____ I/We will obtain coverage for the balance of the school year by applying for a supplemental insurance policy.

I, _____, and I, _____
(parent's name printed) *(student's name printed)*

have carefully reviewed the *Student-Parent Athletic Participation Information* and the *Student-Parent Athletic Participation Contract and Parent Permission Form*. I/We understand the conditions for participation in the Indian River Schools interscholastic athletic program, and we understand there are inherent risks associated with participation.

I/We agree as follows:

- My son/daughter has my/our* permission to participate in athletics at _____ school.
- I/We understand and conform to all of the statements in the stipulations portion of the Contract.
- I/We understand and will abide by the policies set in Student discipline policy JG located in the policy section of the board policy handbook located on the district web site.
- I/We I have responded truthfully and accurately to the questions in the residency portion of the contract.

Please affix signatures below and return to the school.

Signature of Parent, Legal Guardian,
or Relative Caregiver

Date

Signature of Student

Date

Sport / Team

**When parents are divorced and have legal joint custody, the signatures of both parents are required.*

Follow the link to review the DIAA handbook:

<https://education.delaware.gov/diaa/governance/handbook/>

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