

2025 - 2026 STUDENT ATHLETE/ PARENT HANDBOOK



Santa Clara Unified
School District

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Table of Contents

IMPORTANT-Please Read This Handbook In Its Entirety.....	2
Philosophy of Student Athletics.....	2
Participating in Athletics.....	2
Athletic Program and Tryout Information for Parents and StudentAthletes.....	4
Athletic Eligibility and Guidelines.....	5
1. Residential Eligibility.....	5
2. Academic Eligibility.....	5
3. Athletic Clearance.....	7
4. Behavior.....	7
Attendance Expectations for Participation in Athletic Events.....	8
Reporting and Filing of Complaints.....	8
Discipline/Corrective Actions.....	9
Support Services.....	9
Nondiscrimination and Equivalent Opportunities in the Athletic Program.....	10
Academic Eligibility Requirements.....	10
1. GPA.....	10
ii. Date of Eligibility/Ineligibility.....	11
Code of Conduct for Students and Parents.....	11
1. CIF Code of Conduct for Student Athletes.....	11
2. CIF Code of Conduct for Parents/Guardians.....	11
3. Behavior Expectations of Parents at Athletic Contests.....	12
4. Parent/Coach Relationship.....	14
5. Complaints or Concerns.....	15
Awards/Uniform/Equipment.....	16
1. Awards and Award Ceremony.....	16
2. Equipment/Uniform.....	17
Discipline.....	17
1. Discipline Consequences.....	17
Transportation.....	18
District Nondiscrimination and Harassment Policy.....	19
1. Nondiscrimination.....	19
2. Bullying.....	19
3. Sexual Harassment.....	20
4. Uniform Complaint Procedure.....	20
Assurance of Nondiscrimination.....	21

IMPORTANT-Please Read This Handbook In Its Entirety

On behalf of the coaches, advisors, teachers, and administrators of the Santa Clara Unified School District, we welcome you to our district's athletic program and wish you a successful season ahead. In order to ensure an enriching and rewarding experience, we provide this Student Athlete and Parent Handbook with rules and policies that will guide your participation in school athletics.

Philosophy of Student Athletics

Santa Clara Unified School District recognizes athletic competition as an integral part of the school experience. As such, all athletes should have the opportunity to participate in some form of interscholastic athletics within the limitations of each individual sport and such participation should encourage positive scholastic growth and achievement. Both the student athlete and the sport itself should be a credit to the school and the community. The Santa Clara Unified School District realizes that an effective interscholastic athletic program is a product of the responsible cooperation among its four major contributors: the student athlete, parents, the coaching staff, and the site and district administration.

Santa Clara Unified School District strives to strengthen the integrity of students and adults in the community by promoting the concepts of sportsmanship, honesty and quality academics. These priorities advance the highest principles of character, trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship.

Participating in Athletics

Participation in school sports programs is a privilege, not a right. To earn that privilege, students must abide by the rules, and they must conduct themselves as positive role models who exemplify good character. The school intends to maintain programs that are well managed and meet the needs of the students and the school community. Athletic schedules and coaching information can be found on our individual school websites. To find your school, go to <https://www.santaclarausd.org/>, click on *Schools*, find your school, and then the appropriate link.

The SCUSD athletic program will promote sportsmanship and foster the development of good character by enhancing the academic, emotional, social, physical and ethical development of students and teaching positive life skills that will help students become personally successful and socially responsible.

Athletic participation is in place to enrich the mental, physical and emotional well-being of all student athletes by providing competitive opportunities through which the lifelong values of sportsmanship, individual effort, teamwork, dedication, integrity, and total commitment are emphasized.

We are governed by the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), are part of the Central Coast Section (CCS), and participate in most sports as part of the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League (SCVAL). CCS's definition of sportsmanship- A person who can take a loss or defeat without complaint, or victory without gloating and who treats his/her opponents with fairness, courtesy and respect. CIF and CCS believe in victory with honor and that the essential elements of character building are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and these six core ethical values: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship (the "Six Pillars of Character.")

Through their participation as a member of an athletic team or program, students are considered representatives of SCUSD, and as such, are expected to maintain exemplary behavior and citizenship. All students will be held responsible for any involvement in acts specified in their respective school's Student Handbook (Campus Rules/ Policies) whether on campus, at school activities or in the community.

Athletic Program and Tryout Information for Parents and StudentAthletes

THE TRYOUT PROCESS – *Students in the Santa Clara Unified School District, regardless of age or grade, have the ability to try out for any level of sport being offered at a site.*

The Santa Clara Unified School District wants to encourage all students to go out for a sport and participate. Athletic programs within the Santa Clara Unified School District are highly competitive. We are not able to place on every team every student-athlete who wishes to participate. While this is not our desire, it is our reality. The hardest thing our coaches have to do is to tell young people they will not be on a team. Please be sure when your student-athlete tries out for a team, both you and he/she understand there is a very real possibility he/she may not be selected. Normally, coaches have a very short amount of time to make team selections. They try to do the very best they can in keeping the most skilled and hard working athletes and filling positions for play. Their goal is to assemble the most competitive team possible.

MAKING THE TEAM - In each program, a coach and/or coaches are hired by Santa Clara Unified School District and are responsible for team selection. The head coach establishes criteria for selection, possibly with input from the entire coaching staff. By its very nature, this may be a highly subjective process. Team selection, practices, and decisions regarding game situations are the responsibility of the coaching staff. We believe it is the coaches' responsibility and right to select the team with whom they will work for the entire season.

The SCVAL states that a minimum tryout period for a sport is 5 days (Article VIII Section 5). These days need to occur beginning on the official first date of that sports team practice. If athletic clearance delays participation, the five day tryout period may be shortened. Athletic Director and Principal may make exceptions.

If a student is currently participating in a school sport for the previous season, they will be granted their five days of tryouts at the conclusion of the previous season's sport.

Schools may allow an interested student athlete the opportunity to try out for another sport, when there is room, if they are cut from a team during the tryout period.

LEVELS OF PLAY IN SCUSD

VARSIITY -Varsity is a term that is reserved for the top team, or the most experienced team made up of the strongest players that will represent the institution in sporting events. In most cases, the majority of Varsity team rosters are made up of students in 11th and 12th grade. Although all grade levels are eligible to be selected on a Varsity team, factors such as experience, skill, physical ability, and mental maturity are important considerations. Students must be at least 15 years old to participate in varsity football games or scrimmages. However, a student can participate at age 14 if they have a letter from a physician and their parent. Students cannot participate in any team if they turn 19 before June 15 of the current school year.

JUNIOR VARSITY- or JV are the teams comprised of players who are not deemed experienced or skilled enough to play for varsity teams. JV teams are made up of juniors, sophomores, and freshman who have the appropriate level of skill to play on a high school team, but are not yet developmentally ready for varsity. As such, junior varsity teams are used as a developmental level to prepare these

athletes to compete in varsity level competition. Seniors cannot participate on junior varsity without SCVAL approval. Students must be at least 13 years old to play, but they become ineligible when they turn 17 before September.

FRESHMAN- or Frosh are the teams comprised of players who are not deemed experienced or skilled enough to play for JV or varsity teams. As such, Frosh teams are used as a developmental level to prepare these athletes to eventually compete in upper level competition. Frosh teams are dependent on sufficient participation and funding. The SCVAL does not sanction competition for the Frosh level. Frosh team participation is solely dependent on school sites scheduling and funding.

Athletic Eligibility and Guidelines

All athletes will abide by the CIF rules. For more specific information, athletes and their families can visit the CIF website at www.cifces.org.

1. Residential Eligibility

- i. The CIF requires that students who participate on a school team must be living with parents or legal guardians who reside within the school's attendance boundaries.
- ii. If a student is transferring from another high school, they **MUST** contact the athletic director from their home school or refer to the CCS website immediately to determine eligibility.

2. Academic Eligibility

- i. The participant must be a full-time student at their high school. Exception: Juniors and Seniors on graduation track may have a reduced schedule as long as the student is enrolled in at least 20 semester credits or otherwise satisfies CIF rules on enrollment.

INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAM - CIF defines independent/home study programs under the jurisdiction of a CIF member school or school district as those independent/home study programs in which the curriculum is approved, the program administered and the students evaluated by that school/school district's governing body's designees. A student enrolled in an Independent Study Program is eligible at the public school in whose attendance area his/her parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver reside, or where the student most recently established his/her residential eligibility provided that: (1) A student's registration is accepted by the local school board; AND (2) (3) (4) (5) The courses taken by the student meet the standards adopted by the local school board and Education Code Section 51745 et seq.; AND The administrative

responsibility for the student involved in athletics would rest with the principal of the school for which the student is competing; AND The student meets all other eligibility requirements of the CIF and its member Sections; AND For the purposes of determining dues, legal and liability assessments, realignment issues and CIF State and Section divisional placement, the enrollment figures for non-CIF member school/program students residing in the CIF member school's attendance area must be included in the CIF member school's CBEDS enrollment figures. (Approved May 2003 Federated Council/Revised May 2008 Federated Council).

Q: Can a student involved in independent study participate in interscholastic athletics? **A:** Yes, however, participation is subject to certain conditions. In order to be considered Independent Study, the program must exhibit the following characteristics: 1. The program must be subject to the administration at that school for which the student participates; 2. The local school governing body must approve/adopt the curriculum provided to the student; 3. The curriculum must meet CDE minimum standards for graduation; 4. A member of that school's teaching staff must perform teaching/administering the curriculum; 5. A member of the school's teaching staff must perform testing and grading of the student's progress; 6. The student's grades and performance are recorded on the school's transcripts; 7. The student must be enrolled in a minimum of 20 semester credits of work.

Academic – Students maintain an overall GPA of 2.0 on the most recent progress report or semester grade report. GPA shall be determined using a 4-point scale. Students may be required to provide a periodic grade check when requested by the coach/advisor or athletic director.

The SCVAL follows CIF guidelines for academic eligibility, including maintaining a minimum GPA of 2.0 and passing at least 20 credits during the grading period. However, districts within SCVAL often have their own additional procedures for academic probation and appeals.

In Santa Clara Unified School District (part of SCVAL), student-athletes falling below the 2.0 GPA threshold may qualify for probation if they meet specific criteria. Probation allows participation while they work to regain eligibility, typically for one grading period. Appeals are available for extenuating circumstances, and the process generally involves review by an eligibility committee or site administrator.

ii. All 8th grade students who matriculated to grade 9 are immediately scholastically eligible for participation in athletic activities upon enrollment in high school. All 9th grade students will be granted a period of unrestricted academic eligibility from the start of their first semester of ninth grade through the end of the first grading period (progress report).

iii. High school athletes planning to attend Division I or II colleges/universities must be sure they have fulfilled the NCAA Clearinghouse Requirements (see school counselor for details).

- iv. Students enrolled in an Independent Study Program must be residents of the district. Independent Studies students, per the multi school agreement, must participate at their home school based on attendance boundaries established by SCUSD. Students are responsible for contacting their school of residency. Students will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine eligibility

3. Athletic Clearance

- i. No student will be allowed to practice or participate until
 - a. Student and Parents complete the online athletic clearance process and information is verified by the athletic director.
 - b. All outstanding/checked-out athletic uniforms and/or equipment is returned.

4. Behavior

- i. **School Suspension** – Any student who has been suspended for violating the SCUSD discipline policy during school hours, on the way to or from school, or at a school-sponsored event, will be suspended from the team for no less than the same time period as the school suspension.
- ii. **Team** – If a coach or advisor suspends a student, the student may be ineligible for participation in practice and games until a meeting with the administrator, coach/advisor, athletic director, parent and student is held to determine whether or not the student may remain on the team.
- iii. **Citizenship** – Students are expected to maintain excellent citizenship in conjunction with the *CIF Six Pillars of Character* as well as the *Victory with Honor* standards. These standards ensure outstanding athlete behavior in class and all school events.
- iv. **Proper Uniforms** – Athletes must wear uniforms or equipment as specified by the coach / athletic director, according to CIF and NFHS rules.
- v. **Steroids** – Students participating in interscholastic athletics are prohibited from using steroids and dietary supplements banned by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency as well as the substance synephrine. (Education Code 49030)
- vii. **Bullying** – Students are expected to uphold the highest standards of sportsmanship, respect, and integrity, **bullying in any form is strictly prohibited** within all athletic programs. (AR5131.2)

Attendance Expectations for Participation in Athletic Events

Student-athletes are students first and must meet attendance requirements to participate in athletic events. Attendance on the day of a game or practice is essential to maintaining eligibility and demonstrating commitment to both academics and athletics.

- **School Day Attendance:** To be eligible to participate in a game, match, or practice, student-athletes are required to attend school for at least **65% of their class schedule (4 of 6, or 5 of 7)** on the day of the event.
- **Unexcused Absences:** Absences without a valid excuse will make the student-athlete ineligible for participation that day.
- **Exceptions:** Pre-approved absences for medical appointments, court appearances, or other valid reasons as defined by California Education Code and school policies may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Students must provide appropriate documentation.
- **Day After Events:** Student-athletes are expected to attend school the day following an evening athletic event. Chronic tardiness or absences may affect eligibility and standing within the team.

Reporting and Filing of Complaints

Any student, parent/guardian, or other individual who believes that a student has been subjected to bullying or who has witnessed bullying may report the incident to a teacher, the principal, a compliance officer, or any other available school employee.

When a report of bullying is submitted, the principal or a district compliance officer shall inform the student or parent/guardian of the right to file a formal written complaint in accordance with Administrative Regulation 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures. The student who is the alleged victim of the bullying shall be given an opportunity to describe the incident, identify witnesses who may have relevant information, and provide other evidence of bullying.

Within one business day of receiving such a report, a staff member shall notify the principal of the report, regardless of whether a uniform complaint is filed. In addition, any school employee who observes an incident of bullying involving a student shall, within one business day, report such observation to the principal or a district compliance officer, regardless of whether the alleged victim files a complaint.

Within two business days of receiving a report of bullying, the principal shall notify the district compliance officer identified in Administrative Regulation 1312.3.

When the circumstances involve cyberbullying, individuals with information about the activity

shall be encouraged to save and print any electronic or digital messages that they feel constitute cyberbullying and to notify a teacher, the principal, or other employee so that the matter may be investigated. When a student uses a social networking site or service to bully or harass another student, the Superintendent or designee may file a request with the networking site or service to suspend the privileges of the student and to have the material removed.

Discipline/Corrective Actions

Corrective actions for a student who commits an act of bullying of any type may include counseling, behavioral intervention and education, and, if the behavior is severe or pervasive as defined in Education Code 48900, may include suspension or expulsion in accordance with district policies and regulations.

When a student has been suspended, or other means of correction have been implemented against the student, for an incident of racist bullying, harassment, or intimidation, the principal or designee, when suitable to the needs of the student, shall engage both the victim and perpetrator in a restorative justice practice. The principal or designee shall also require the perpetrator to engage in a culturally sensitive program that promotes racial justice and equity and combats racism and ignorance and shall regularly check on the victim to ensure that the victim is not in danger of suffering from any long-lasting mental health issues. (Education Code 48900.5)

Support Services

The Superintendent, principal, or principal's designee may refer a victim, witness, perpetrator, or other student affected by an act of bullying to a school counselor, school psychologist, social worker, child welfare attendance personnel, school nurse, or other school support service personnel for case management, counseling, and/or participation in a restorative justice program as appropriate. (Education Code 48900.9)

If any student involved in bullying exhibits warning signs of suicidal thought or intention or of intent to harm another person, the Superintendent or designee shall, as appropriate, implement district intervention protocols which may include, but are not limited to, referral to district or community mental health services, other health professionals, and/or law enforcement, in accordance with Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5141.52 - Suicide Prevention.

Nondiscrimination and Equivalent Opportunities in the Athletic Program

No student shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, be denied equivalent opportunity in, or otherwise be discriminated against in interscholastic, intramural, or club athletics on the basis of any actual or perceived characteristic specified in law and BP 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities. (Education Code 220, 221.5, 230; 5 CCR 4920; 34 CFR 106.41)

The Superintendent or designee may provide single-sex teams when selection for the teams is based on competitive skills. (5 CCR 4921; 34 CFR 106.41)

Each student shall be allowed to participate in any single-sex athletic program or activity consistent with the student's gender identity, irrespective of the gender listed on the student's records, for which the student is otherwise eligible to participate (Education Code 221.5)

When a school provides only one team in a particular sport for members of one sex, but provides no team in the same sport for members of the other sex, and athletic opportunities in the total program for that sex have been previously limited, members of the excluded sex shall be allowed to try out and compete with the team. The same standards for eligibility shall be applied to every student trying out for the team, regardless of sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, or other protected group status. (5 CCR 4921; 34 CFR 106.41)

Academic Eligibility Requirements

The grade point average (GPA) used to determine eligibility for extracurricular and cocurricular activities shall be based on grades of the last previous grading period during which the student attended class at least a majority of the time. If a student was not in attendance for all, or a majority of, the grading period due to absences excused by the school for reasons such as serious illness or injury, approved travel, or work, the GPA used to determine eligibility shall be the grading period immediately prior to the excluded grading period(s). (Education Code 35160.5)

When a student becomes ineligible to participate in extracurricular or cocurricular activities in the upcoming grading period, or when he/she is subject to probation, the principal or designee shall provide written notice to the student and his/her parents/guardians.

1. GPA

1. GPA computation of a minimum 2.0 (coverage) is based on all courses in which the student was enrolled in the preceding grading period.
2. A "Drop F" is figured into the grade point average for the grading period(s) it applies.

3. The grade point average used to determine eligibility shall be based on grades of the previous grading period during which the student attended class at least a majority of the time. (Education Code 35160.5)

4. In the event a student finds that he/she is academically ineligible to participate in extra/co curricular activities in the first grading period of the upcoming year, he/she may request that the total spring and summer school grades be used to determine eligibility for the first grading period of the upcoming school year.

ii. **Date of Eligibility/Ineligibility**

Changes in scholastic eligibility for athletes are based upon the end of the grading period.

1. Official school-wide written, typed, or printed notification of grades to the student body, regardless of any delay (of any duration) between the end of the grading period and the subsequent official school-wide notification of student.

2. If the grade point average is not raised to the required 2.0, the student shall be suspended from participation in any extra/cocurricular activity event during the succeeding grading period. Such a suspension shall become effective the Monday following schoolwide notification of grades to the student body.

Code of Conduct for Students and Parents

1. CIF Code of Conduct for Student Athletes

Interscholastic athletic competition should demonstrate high standards of ethics and sportsmanship and promote the development of good character and other important life skills. The highest potential of sports is achieved when participants are committed to *pursuing victory with honor* according to the [Six Pillars of Character](#): *trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship*. This code applies to all student-athletes involved in interscholastic sports throughout California. In order to participate in high school athletics, you must act in accordance with the following:

CIF and CCS believe in victory with honor and that the essential elements of character building are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and these six core ethical values: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship (the "Six Pillars of Character.")

2. CIF Code of Conduct for Parents/Guardians

i. The role of the parent in the education of a student is vital. The support shown in the home is often manifested in the ability of the student to accept the opportunities presented at school and in life.

- ii. There is a value system – established in the home, nurtured in the school – which young people are developing. Their involvement in the classroom and other activities contributes to that development. Trustworthiness, Citizenship, Caring, Fairness and Respect are lifetime values taught through extracurricular activities. These are the principles of good sportsmanship and character. With them, the spirit of competition thrives; fueled by honest rivalry, courteous relations and graceful acceptance of the results.
- iii. As a parent of a student at our school, your goals should:
- a. Realize that athletic activities are part of the educational experience and the benefits of involvement go beyond the final score of a game.
 - b. Encourage our students to perform their best as both an athlete and a student.
 - c. Participate in positive cheers that encourage our student athletes and discourage any cheers that taunt, intimidate, or demean opponents, their fans and officials.
 - d. Learn and understand the rules of the game and respect the officials who administer them.
 - e. Respect the task our coaches/advisors face as teachers and support them as they strive to educate student athletes.
 - f. Respect our opponents as students and acknowledge them for striving to do their best.
 - g. Model dignity and sportsmanship under all circumstances.

Note: All Parents and student athletes will be required to read and acknowledge receipt of the CIF Code of Ethics during the SCUSD Online Athletic Clearance process.

3. Behavior Expectations of Parents at Athletic Contests

- Remember that you are at the contest to support and yell for your team, and to enjoy the skill and competition not to intimidate or ridicule the other team or its fans.

Commitment to the Team: Participation in athletics requires a strong commitment to the team, and it is expected that both student-athletes and their families honor this responsibility. Team membership is not an individual activity but a collective effort that depends on all members contributing fully.

Consistent Participation: Parents are expected to support their student-athlete's commitment to attend all games and practices unless there are unavoidable circumstances such as illness, injury, or a family emergency.

Fairness to the Team: Parents withholding participation as a form of discipline—such as for incomplete chores or homework—is discouraged, as it impacts the entire team and undermines the sense of shared accountability among players.

Team Responsibility: If participation must be withheld due to an unavoidable reason, parents are encouraged to communicate with the coach in advance to minimize

disruptions to the team.

The athletic program aims to balance the values of accountability, teamwork, and academic responsibility. We ask that parents work collaboratively with coaches to address any concerns without compromising the commitment required by the team.

- Remember that school athletics are a learning experience for students and that mistakes are sometimes made. Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes, and as people, just as you would praise a student working in the classroom.
- A ticket is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious.
- Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
- Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Understand that they are doing their best to help promote the student-athlete, and admire their willingness to participate in full view of the public.
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before, during, and after the game on or near the site of the event (i.e. tailgating).
- Use only cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.
- Be a positive role model at events through your own actions and by censuring those around you whose behavior is unbecoming.
- Parents and spectators should be aware that the school can (and should) remove them from the premises and can prohibit them from attending future contests due to undesirable behaviors.
- Game officials can and will ask that school administrators have unruly fans removed from a contest facility.
- There is no such thing as a “right” to attend interscholastic athletics. Interscholastic athletics are considered a “privilege” and the spectator who avails themselves of it is expected to conduct himself or herself accordingly.
- Keep in mind that you are a guest of the school, and that while winning is certainly an

admirable goal, it is hollow if it comes at the expense of morals, ethics, and just plain common sense. The school is responsible for the behavior of their spectators.

- Reminder for athletes and fans: As an organization of educationally-based athletic programs and, therefore, an extension of the classroom, The following behavior is unacceptable at all CIF/CCS high school contests:
 - A. Berating an opponent's school or mascot;
 - B. Berating opposing players;
 - C. Obscene cheers or gestures;
 - D. Negative signs;
 - E. Artificial noise-makers;
 - F. Complaining about officials' calls (either verbally or by gestures);
 - G. Actions by a school and/or team that are intended to embarrass or humiliate their opponent and/or show a lack of respect for their opponent or the integrity of the sport.
 - H. "Body-painting" that either would or would not necessitate the removal, or partial removal, of what a reasonable person would consider to be normal clothing (this prohibition does not include "face-painting").
 - I. Removal, or partial removal, of what a reasonable person would consider to be normal clothing: The changing of clothes that exposes undergarments or bare skin, not appropriate to the sport, in the view of spectators and general public before, during, or after the contest is not acceptable. Exception: Any removal of clothing due to an injury incurred during the contest.

4. 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 a greater benefit to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD'S COACH

- Philosophy of the coach
- Expectations the coach has for your child as well as the players on the team
- Locations and times of all practices and contests
- Team requirements
- Procedure should your child be injured during practices or games
- Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation

COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM PARENTS

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
- Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and or expectations

As your children become involved in the programs in the Santa Clara Unified School District, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the procedure listed below should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issues of concern

APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

- Ways to help your child improve
- The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
- Concerns about your child's behavior

It is difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you may hope. The coaches are professionals. They make decisions based on what they believe is best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as the items listed below must left to the discretion of the coach:

ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

- Playing time
- Team position
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other student-athletes

5. Complaints or Concerns¹

i. When a conflict or issue arises, it is important that it be addressed immediately and as directly as possible so that it can be promptly resolved. In an effort to establish and maintain clear lines of communication between the athletic department staff, student-athletes, and parents/guardians, coaching staff will establish a specific time and day to meet with athletes and/or parents as requested. **Athletes or Parents should NEVER confront a coach before, during or after a contest/game or practice.** If or/when a conflict or issue arises, the following process is in place to effectively address a specific concern:

¹ If parents believe that coaching staff or other District personnel are acting inappropriately with students or suspect an inappropriate relationship, parents are encouraged to contact site administration and/or the District's Title IX Coordinator, Stacy Joslin, at sjoslin@scusd.net. For more information on Title IX, please visit <https://www.santaclarausd.org/about-us/know-your-rights/title-ix-sexual-harassment-and-gender-based-discrimination>.

Step 1: Student-Athlete Contacts Coach:

We encourage athletes to become their own advocates and to contact the coach regarding the conflict/issue as soon as possible. It is anticipated that the majority of concerns will be resolved at this step.

Step 2: Parent Contacts Coach:

If needed, a parent may contact the coach directly-but never before, during or after a game or practice. A parent should contact the coach by email or phone to set up an appropriate day and time to discuss their concern.

Step 3: Contact the Athletic Director:

In situations where a satisfactory solution is not reached through direct contact with the coach, the athlete and/or parent should contact the Athletic Director. The athlete and/or parent should inform the coach that this contact will be made. A meeting may be scheduled involving all concerned parties in an attempt to reach a satisfactory resolution. The Athletic Director will respond to athletes and/or parents' concerns/issues in a timely manner.

Step 4: Contact the Assistant Principal Overseeing Athletics:

If after meeting with the Athletic Director, there is still not a satisfactory resolution, the athlete and/or parent may contact the school's Assistant Principal overseeing athletics. The athlete and/or parent should inform the Athletic Director that this contact will be made. At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined. While there is no guarantee that all parties will agree with the findings or resolution, a thorough, respectful airing of different viewpoints and experiences can lead to a more productive relationship and a clearer understanding moving forward.

Retribution or retaliation is prohibited by California law. Students and parents must be confident that voicing an opinion or concern in a respectful manner and using the proper process, is free from penalty or retribution. The Athletic Director and coaches are required to ensure that after a student or parent raises an issue or concern, there shall be no "retribution" in any form within the Santa Clara Unified School District.

Awards/Uniform/Equipment

1. Awards and Award Ceremony

- i. Awards and end of season ceremonies are organized and managed by each individual

team. A student/athlete must meet the following requirements before participating in award ceremony or banquet:

- a. Complete the entire season, including postseason, if applicable, in good standing.
- b. All equipment returned.
- c. All school and athletic debts cleared.

2. Equipment/Uniform

Students are responsible for the security of their equipment and uniforms. If students willfully damage equipment or uniforms, students and parents will be liable for the replacement costs of such uniforms. (Education Code 48904.) In some cases, particularly with game uniforms, the replacement fee may be higher than the original purchase price because special processing and printing may be required to duplicate the uniform.

- i. Students are expected to turn in the same piece(s) of equipment checked out to them.
- ii. Equipment should be returned in the same condition as it was received. Equipment and uniforms should be cleaned and washed before being returned.

Discipline

1. Discipline Consequences

- i. Athletes are to conform to SCUSD's Board Policies (BP) and Administrative Regulations (AR) as stated in the SCUSD Discipline Policy (See BP/AR 5144.) A student who has been suspended from school for violating the Discipline Policy will be suspended from any practices/games occurring during that same period of time.
- ii. In addition to the district's expectations for student conduct, each coach has the authority and responsibility, with the approval of the Athletic Director and school Principal, to establish his/her own rules and standards of behavior as they apply to his/her sport. All team rules must be in writing and clearly communicated to each team member and parent(s) at the beginning of the season. Coaches have the right to suspend or dismiss participants for conduct considered detrimental to the team or school. Any serious discipline issues that occur will be handled by the principal or designee.

Transportation

1. Transportation

i. The district provides transportation to almost all away events/games. Students are expected to ride to and from events/games on district provided transportation. There might also be games where it is agreed upon by the coach and the team members that they will meet at the event.

- a. The SCUSD Transportation Department and the school site often determine bus departure times.
- b. The Superintendent or his/her designee may authorize the transportation of students by private vehicle when the vehicle is driven by an adult age 21 or older who possesses a valid California driver's license or a valid license from his/her state of residence if he/she is a nonresident on active military duty in California. To be approved, a driver shall have a good driving record, possess at least the minimum insurance required by law, and be licensed to operate the vehicle driven. Any person providing transportation in a private vehicle shall register with the district for such purposes. All students will dress in an appropriate manner for bus trips as determined by the coach/advisor. The number of passengers, including the driver, shall not exceed the capacity for which the vehicle was designed. Motor trucks may not transport more persons than can safely sit in the passenger compartment. The driver shall also ensure that the manufacturer's recommendations for his/her vehicle are followed regarding the seating of children in seats equipped with airbags. Drivers must not consume alcohol or other intoxicating substances prior to or while transporting students.
Note: All students must return on the bus unless a personal request is made by a parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver(s) that a pupil be released from returning by bus. This request is at the coach/advisor's discretion.
- c. Personal items are the responsibility of the students. Personal electronic devices may be allowed at the coach/advisor's discretion, subject to any disability accommodations or items included in a student's Individualized Education Plan.

On rare occasions when a bus is not available for an off-campus game/event, a coach/advisor may make arrangements for parent drivers. However, the principal or his/her designee shall ensure that the following conditions have been met:

- ii. The owner of the vehicle to be used in transporting the students carries a minimum insurance of \$100,000 bodily injury per person; \$300,000 per accident and \$50,000 property damage, or, in lieu therefore \$300,000 combined single limit.

- iii. The driver has completed and has on file a current Driver Information Form Number 4124-80.
- iv. With the proposed number of passengers and driver, the vehicle will not be overloaded.
 - a. Vehicles shall be considered overloaded if carrying more than the number of persons, including the driver, for which a seat belt is designed (one person per seat belt).
 - b. This particularly applies to station wagons, vans, SUVs designed for carrying more than six persons, including the drivers, and/or buses whose seating capacity has been permanently reduced.

District Nondiscrimination and Harassment Policy

1. Nondiscrimination

Nondiscrimination Statement: The Santa Clara Unified School District prohibits discrimination, intimidation, harassment (including sexual harassment) or bullying based on a person's actual or perceived age, ancestry, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, immigration status, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, pregnancy and related conditions or recovery, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, lactation, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, or association with a person or a group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. For questions or complaints, contact Stacy Joslin, Director of Human Resources at sjoslin@scusd.net.

The Superintendent or designee shall review district programs and activities to ensure the removal of any barrier that may unlawfully prevent an individual or group in any of the protected categories stated above from accessing district programs and activities, including the use of facilities. He/she shall take prompt, reasonable actions to remove any identified barrier.

2. Bullying

The Governing Board believes that all students have the right to be educated in a positive learning environment free from disruptions. Students shall be expected to exhibit appropriate conduct that does not infringe upon the rights of others or interfere with the school program while on school grounds, while going to or coming from school, while at school activities, and while on district transportation. Prohibited student conduct includes, but is not limited to harassment of students or staff, including bullying, intimidation, cyber bullying, hazing or initiation activity, ridicule, extortion, or any other verbal, written, or physical conduct that causes or threatens to cause bodily harm or emotional suffering. Board Policy 5131.2

3. Sexual Harassment

The Governing Board is committed to maintaining a learning environment that is free of harassment. Board Policy 5145.7 prohibits the unlawful sexual harassment targeted at any student by any employee, student, or other person at school or at any school-related activity. The District is committed to taking serious, immediate and appropriate action with respect to violations of sexual harassment policy. Students shall be assured that they need not endure any form of sexual harassment. They shall further be assured that they need not endure, for any reason, any harassment that impairs the educational environment or a student's emotional well-being at school. Should a student believe that they have been subjected to sexual harassment, they may file a complaint in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Administrative Regulation 5145.71 (Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures), or under the Uniform Complaint Procedures (Administrative Regulation 1312.3), as applicable. Students can be assured that the District will not tolerate retaliation as a result of the filing of a complaint. Any student who engages in the sexual harassment of anyone at school or a school related activity shall be subject to disciplinary action.

4. Uniform Complaint Procedure

It is the goal of the Santa Clara Unified School District to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations governing educational programs. The District shall follow the Uniform Complaint Procedure when addressing complaints alleging unlawful discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived ancestry, color, ethnic group identification, national origin, race, religion, sex, gender (including sexual harassment), sexual orientation, or physical and/or mental disability in any program or activity that receives or benefits from state financial assistance or for the alleged failure to comply with state or federal law when addressing complaints regarding adult basic education, consolidated categorical aid programs, migrant education, vocational education, child care and development programs, child nutrition programs and school or athletic team names, mascots, or nickname. However, any complaint that alleges conduct that may reasonably constitute sexual harassment, under Title IX shall be processed in accordance with 34 CFR 106.44-45, as specified in the District's Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures. (Administrative Regulation 5145.71.) More detailed information regarding the Uniform Complaint Procedure is contained in the Santa Clara Unified School District Parent's Rights and Responsibilities Handbook and Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 1312.3. If you have questions regarding the Uniform Complaint Procedure, please contact SCUSD Human Resources Department.

Assurance of Nondiscrimination

The Santa Clara Unified School District shall be free from discrimination, harassment, intimidation and bullying against an individual or group based on age; gender, gender identity or expression, or genetic information; sex, actual or potential parental, family, or marital status that treats students differently on the basis of sex; race, pregnancy and related conditions or recovery, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, lactation, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, immigration status; the perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. The Board of Trustees is determined to provide students, employees, community members and job applicants a safe, positive environment where they are assured full and equal employment access and opportunities, protection from harassment, intimidation, bullying, and freedom from fear of retaliation for asserting their rights in accordance with that law. The Board shall promote programs that ensure discriminatory practices are eliminated in all district activities. The Santa Clara Unified School District requires that school personnel take immediate steps to intervene when safe to do so when he or she witnesses an act of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

For more information, please refer to SCUSD Board Policy 0410 – Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities/Title IX.

Questions or complaints of alleged discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying, as well as Title IX-related concerns should be directed to the following individuals:

TITLE IX Director/Compliance

Stacy Joslin
sjoslin@scusd.net

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

Jose Gonzalez
jgonzalez@scusd.net

Chief Academic and Innovation Officer

Brad Stam
bstam@scusd.net

Director of Secondary Education

Matt Baldwin
mbaldwin@scusd.net



2025-2026 ATHLETICS HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

Please take the time to carefully read the SCUSD Athletics Handbook. It contains important information about eligibility, academic expectations, behavior, communication, safety, and the values that guide athletic participation in Santa Clara Unified School District. Understanding these guidelines is essential for ensuring a positive and successful experience for all student-athletes and their families.

By signing below, we acknowledge that we have read and understood all the policies, responsibilities, and expectations outlined in the handbook and give our consent to the following statements:

____ I, _____ as a student-athlete, have read and will adhere to the CIF Code of Ethics for Interscholastic Student-Athletes.

____ I hereby commit to representing SCUSD athletics with sportsmanship, teamwork, and integrity, in full understanding of all academic, behavioral, and safety expectations.

Student-Athlete Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

____ I, _____ as a parent/guardian, have read and will adhere to the CIF Code of Ethics for parents/guardians.

____ I hereby authorize the SCUSD or a representative to transport and supervise the above-named student on any trip.

____ I hereby give my consent, in case this student is injured or becomes ill, for the school and/or its representative to secure medical aid, ambulance transportation, and for the medical agency to render treatment.

____ I hereby give my consent to the team physician, emergency doctor, nurse, athletic trainer, teacher and/or coach to apply first aid treatment until the family doctor can be contacted.

____ I hereby give my consent for the above-named student to have his/her picture and/or statistics published. This may include print/electronic media.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____