



ST. JOSEPH

SCHOOL DISTRICT



# ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETICS STUDENT HANDBOOK

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# Participation in Sports and Activities

The vision of SJSD Activities is to meet the needs of all students in all activities through offering positive experiences while participating in our activity programs.

## Purpose Statement

The SJSD provides many opportunities for students to participate in organized extra-curricular sports and activities. These activities are designed to provide a positive, healthy, drug-free atmosphere for our students outside the regular academic setting. Participation in these sports and activities is a privilege, as the student participant is a representative of their respective school, their community, and the sport or organization. As such, students must meet all scholastic and organizational requirements, as well as maintain compliance with the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) for participation. All policies and regulations that apply to the regular school programming also apply to participation in sports and activities and can be found in each school's student handbook. Additionally, coaches and sponsors may establish rules and regulations for their respective sports and activities in addition to those set forth by MSHSAA.

## Administration of Sports and Activities Programs

All sports and activities programming are administered by each high school's Activities Director and Administration. Policies, regulations, and procedures from the St. Joseph School District and MSHSAA will be followed. As a member of MSHSAA, all SJSD schools must abide by its regulations. The following is a partial list of MSHSAA requirements. Additional information may be found in the St. Joseph School District Activity Participation Rules for Middle and High Schools and on the MSHSAA website at [mshsaa.org](http://mshsaa.org).

## Student Eligibility Guidelines

Any student who represents his/her school in interscholastic activities shall be a bona fide student enrolled as an undergraduate student at the school (except as provided by By-Law 2.1.1) and shall meet the following general standards of eligibility and the specific standards in By-Laws 2.1 through 2.11 and essential age requirements in By-Law 3.5.

## Definitions

**Participation:** Eligibility to represent a school in interscholastic activities is a privilege to be attained by meeting the standards of eligibility cooperatively set by the member schools

through this Association and in any additional standards set by a member school for its own students.

**Bona fide student:** In order to represent the school, the individual must be a bona fide student and meet all eligibility requirements. A bona fide student is one who is enrolled in and regularly attending classes at the member school which meet the minimum academic requirements in By-Law 2.3.

**Interscholastic Activity:** An interscholastic activity shall be defined as any extra-class activity involving two or more schools in which two or more students participate who are identified with their schools.

## Entering and Withdrawing from School

1. "Entering school" for the purpose of eligibility consists of regular registration for classes and attendance in classes.
2. A student must have ENTERED SCHOOL WITHIN THE FIRST ELEVEN DAYS of the semester in which he/she is competing. This rule is automatically waived in case a student is prevented from entering high school within the required time limit because of service with the National Guard, United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, provided that the student enrolls in school within thirty days after he/she receives his/her discharge. A student transferring from a school district which has a school year beginning in September to a district which starts in August becomes eligible upon the change of residence and enrollment in a school in that district, provided he/she meets all other requirements.
3. In case of withdrawal, if withdrawal occurs on or after the twentieth school day of the preceding semester, a student is ineligible for one complete semester; if withdrawal occurs before the first twenty school days of the semester have elapsed, that student will not be considered as having been in attendance that semester provided, he or she has not participated in interschool activities during this period.

## Citizenship and Conduct Requirements

### Citizenship Requirements

Students who represent a school in interscholastic activities must be creditable citizens and judged so by the proper authority. Those students whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon themselves or their schools are not considered "creditable citizens". Conduct shall be satisfactory in accordance with the standards of good discipline.

## Law Enforcement

A student who commits an act for which charges may be or have been filed by law enforcement authorities under any municipal ordinance, misdemeanor, or felony statute shall not be eligible until all proceedings with the legal system have been concluded and any penalty (i.e. jail time, fine, court costs, etc.) or special conditions of probation (i.e. restitution, community service, counseling, etc.) has been satisfied. If law enforcement authorities determine that charges will not be filed, eligibility will be contingent upon local school policies. Moving traffic offenses shall not affect eligibility, unless they involve drugs, alcohol, or injuries to others. After a student has completed all court appearances and penalties and has satisfied all special conditions of probation and remains under general probation only, local school authorities shall determine eligibility.

## Local School

1. A student who violates a local school policy is ineligible until completion of the prescribed school penalties.
2. The eligibility of a student who is serving detention or in-school suspension shall be determined by local school authorities.
3. A student shall not be considered eligible while serving an out-of-school suspension.
4. A student who is expelled or who withdraws from school because of disciplinary measures shall not be considered eligible for 365 days from the date of expulsion or withdrawal.
5. If a student misses class(es) without being excused by the principal, the student shall not be considered eligible on that date. Further, the student cannot be certified eligible to participate on any subsequent date until the student attends a full day of classes.
6. Each individual school has the authority to set more restrictive citizenship standards and shall have the authority and responsibility to judge its students under those standards.
7. Each school shall diligently and completely investigate any issue that could affect student eligibility.

## Student Responsibility

Each student is responsible for notifying the school of any, and all, situations that would affect his/her eligibility under the above standards. If the student does not notify the school of the situation prior to the school's discovery, the student shall be ineligible for up to 365 days from discovery, pending review by the Board of Directors.

## School/Team Conduct Rules

1. **Team Rules:** Each coach/sponsor will establish team rules. Team rules will be distributed and discussed with parents and participants prior to the beginning of the activity. The student is expected to comply with team rules and might forfeit his/her eligibility through noncompliance.
2. **School Attendance:** If a student misses class on the date of a contest without being excused by the principal, he/she shall be considered ineligible on that date.
  - a. ALL STUDENTS WHO REPRESENT THE SCHOOL IN ACTIVITIES MUST ATTEND SCHOOL FOR THE FULL DAY OF CLASSES IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE.
  - b. A full day of attendance is defined as being in school no more than 15 minutes after the first class period of the day begins.
  - c. If a student is absent from class without being excused by the principal, the student shall be considered ineligible on that date.
  - d. Students must be in regular attendance for the full day of the activity scheduled unless the activity is in another city and it is necessary that the student be absent for travel and participation, or if the activity is scheduled on a date when school is not in session.
  - e. An absence will prevent the student from participating on the day of the absence and it will prevent the student from competing until a full day of classes has been attended.
3. **Detention:** A student assigned detention by teachers or administrators must report the detention to the coach/sponsor. The coach/sponsor will determine any additional action to be taken.
4. **Suspension:** A student serving an in-school or out-of-school suspension will not be permitted to participate in extra-curricular or co-curricular activities while on suspension. He/she may be eligible following his/her first day back in regular class.
5. **Expulsion:** A student who is expelled or withdraws from school because of disciplinary action shall not be considered eligible for extra-curricular activities.
6. **Ejection from Contest:** A student ejected from an activity because of unsportsmanlike conduct shall be prohibited from participating in the next interscholastic contest(s) or activity(ies) at the same level as follows:
  - a. **First Offense-** One game suspension
  - b. **Second Offense-** Three game suspension
  - c. **Third Offense-** Suspension for the remainder of the season (eligibility for the next season will be determined by the principal)

## Creditable Citizenship

In addition to the above-mentioned MSHSAA eligibility requirements, students who represent SJSD schools in sports and activities must maintain creditable citizenship. Any student who commits acts or engages in behavior that discredits themselves, their team, their organization, or their school are not considered creditable citizens. Students may discredit themselves through actions both inside and outside of school, during the regular school year, and during times when school is not in session. Creditable citizenship shall be the decision of the school principal and administration.

### Disciplinary Actions and Consequences

Students might be ineligible for extracurricular or co-curricular activities if they violate the policies of the St. Joseph School District as outlined in board policy if they fail to exhibit good citizenship at all times. The length of nonparticipation will be determined by the coach/sponsor, activities director, and school administrator. Disciplinary action will apply to any student who violates the policies of the St. Joseph School District from the last school day of the previous year through the end of the current school year. **This includes violations that take place during season and/or non-season including evenings, weekends, and summer.** If school policies are violated, the procedures and penalties of those policies may take precedence over and /or be in addition to those described in the following disciplinary action and consequences for participants. Reinstatement of the activity will be considered after review by the school administration and coach/sponsor.

### Citizenship

A student who commits an act for which charges may be, or have been, filed by law enforcement authorities under any municipal ordinance, misdemeanor, or felony statute shall not be eligible until all proceedings with the legal system have been concluded and any penalty (i.e. jail time, fine, court costs, etc.) or special condition of probation (i.e. restitution, community service, counseling, etc.) has been satisfied. School officials may deny participation in all extracurricular or co-curricular activities to a student convicted or found guilty of a municipal ordinance, misdemeanor, or felony. If law enforcement authorities determine that charges will not be filed, eligibility will be contingent upon local school policies.

### Violation Penalties

*First Offense:* A student who has been arrested and/or charged with a municipal ordinance violation, a misdemeanor, or a felony may be suspended from game/meet participation in extracurricular or co-curricular activities and remain ineligible until his/her judgment is satisfied according to public law and/or school policy.

*Second Offense:* The student will be suspended from his/her activity. A conference will be conducted. If verification is found to be sufficient by the school administration, the participant will be suspended from all activity competition for 180 school days from the day of the offense.

*Third Offense:* The student will be suspended from all activities for the duration of his/her high school career.

## Substance Use Policies

### ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OR ILLICIT OR ILLEGAL DRUGS

Students shall not use, sell, distribute, or possess alcoholic beverages and/or illicit or illegal drugs. This includes electronic smoking devices that contain marijuana or cannabis products such as, but not limited to, THC, CBD, or Delta-8 products. If school or district administration determines use, sale, distribution, or possession occurs, eligibility to participate in activities will occur as follows:

#### Violation Penalties

*First Offense:* The student will be suspended from his/her activity. A conference with a building administrator will be conducted, in addition to a phone call to the parent(s). If verification is found to be sufficient by the school administration, the participant will be suspended from all contests for 25% of the season from the day of the offense. If the suspension is near the end of the activity/sports season and the student wants to participate in another activity/sports season, the rest of the 25% will start with the first possible contest in that activity/sport that they complete.

*Second Offense:* The student will be suspended from his/her activity. A conference will be conducted. If verification is found to be sufficient by the school administration, the participant will be suspended from all activity competition for 180 school days from the day of the offense.

*Third Offense:* The student will be suspended from all activities for the duration of his/her high school career.

### Tobacco or Electronic Smoking Devices

Students should not use, sell, distribute, or possess electronic smoking devices or tobacco. Electronic smoking devices include, but are not limited to, electronic cigarettes, vapes, vape tanks, starter kits, mods, or e-pipes. Tobacco products include, but are not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, pipes, chewing tobacco, e-cigarettes, snus/tobacco pouches, tobacco strips, orbs or other dissolvables, bidis, kreteks/clove cigars, dhoka, and hookah pens or water pipes.

## Violation Penalties

*First Offense:* Loss of participation for 10% of the season. If the suspension is near the end of the activity/sports season and the student wants to participate in another activity/sports season, the rest of the 10% will start with the first possible contest in the activity/sport.

*Second Offense:* Loss of participation for 25% of the season. If the suspension is near the end of the activity/sports season, and the student wants to participate in another activity/sports season, the rest of the 25% will start with the first possible contest in that activity/sport.

*Third Offense:* 45 school day suspension from all extracurricular or co-curricular activities. If the suspension is near the end of the activity/sports season and the student wants to participate in another activity/sports season, the 45-day suspension will start with the first possible contest in that activity/sport.

*Fourth Offense:* The student will be suspended from all activities for the duration of his/her high school career.

## Enrollment and Transfer Rules

### Transfer of Enrollment Requirements

If a student transfers from one SJSD High School to another SJSD High School, eligibility will be determined by MSHSAA guidelines. Transferring schools **could** cause an athlete to be ineligible or have limited eligibility (sub-varsity only for 365 days) as stated in MSHSAA By-Law 3.10.4. A student may not transfer from one school to another for athletic reasons. He/she must not have been influenced by a person or group of people to attend that school. Always check with your school principal OR athletic director before you transfer to determine whether it will affect your eligibility. If it is suspected that the transfer is for athletic reasons, the parent and student may be asked to schedule a meeting with the two schools' athletic directors and the district activities director to provide information for a final decision.

### Undue Influence

To maintain a proper relationship between the academic purposes of schools and their interscholastic activities programs, all members of the Missouri State High School Activities Association must refrain from recruitment, inducement, or other forms of persuasion and undue influence which would encourage a student to enroll in a school primarily for interscholastic activities purposes.

The enrollment in a school or the transfer from one school to another because of “undue influence” by any persons or group connected, directly or indirectly, with a member school (including but not limited to parents, alumni associations, booster groups, and similar organizations), shall cause the student to forfeit eligibility at the school concerned for a period not to exceed the remainder of his/her high school career and not to exceed 365 days at the member school from which the student transferred from or, for an incoming freshman, the school(s) the student was eligible to attend as outlined by MSHSAA By-Law 2.6. Such conduct may require the school concerned to forfeit participation in the district and state tournament(s) for the ensuing series competition. Further, the school’s membership status in the Association shall be jeopardized and shall result in other such actions as the Board of Directors deems appropriate.

What constitutes undue influence shall be determined on a case-by-case basis. Undue influence may, if primarily used to encourage or facilitate participation in interscholastic activities, include but not limited to:

1. The offer or acceptance of money, room, board, clothing, or other valuable considerations to a student, or a student’s parent or guardian, including but not limited to:
  - a. transportation to and/or from school by “any” school official;
  - b. provision for free or reduced rent for a parent or guardian; and
  - c. offer or payment of the moving expenses of a parent or guardian.
2. Waiving or reducing tuition for any student to be certified as eligible for interscholastic activities without establishing and following a plan submitted by the school and approved by the MSHSAA Board of Directors which includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - a. statement of philosophy and policy concerning the reduction or waiver of tuition;
  - b. procedures used to determine the qualifications for tuition waiver or reduction; and
  - c. description of how the waiving or deducing of tuition is equally available and applied to students in similar circumstances.
3. The payment of tuition by someone other than a student’s immediate family or a financial aid program not approved by the Board of Directors.
4. The offer or acceptance of remuneration for work in excess of the amount regularly paid for such service.
5. The offer or acceptance of school privileges or considerations not normally granted to other students.
6. Any inducement to get a parent, guardian, or student to change residence for interscholastic activities purposes.

7. The contacting of a student(s) in another school by any person or group connected, directly or indirectly, with a member school (including but not limited to alumni associations, booster groups, or similar organizations), and attempting to persuade or induce that student(s), primarily for interscholastic activities purposes, to attend the inducer's school. Exception: Persuasion or encouragement of a student to attend a particular junior high or high school by a school administrator or an approved interscholastic coach at that school is not undue influence if that student lives within the residence boundaries (3.10.1.d) of that junior high or high school and is enrolled and attending the lower school (elementary or middle/junior) managed band funded by that junior high or high school's district or system and which feeds directly to that junior high or high school.

## Guidelines to Address Undue Influence for Athletic Purposes

### Undue Influence

*MSHSAA By-law 2.6.: To maintain a proper relationship between academic purposes of schools and their interscholastic activities programs, all members of the Missouri State High School Activities Association must refrain from recruitment, inducement, or other forms of persuasion and undue influence which would encourage a student to enroll in a school primarily for interscholastic purposes.*

### Acceptable Actions

- High School coaches can go to your direct feeder middle schools within the school district and talk about camps and contact days. They can also send fliers to their direct feeder middle schools about camps being offered and the schools can put information in their announcements and interested people can come to pick up the information at your school.
- High school coaches may talk about camps and summer contact days with current 8th graders at their feeder schools (or students that live in that school's boundary area).
- High school coaches or athletic directors may provide information to counselors to be shared with 8th graders when they register/choose classes for high school.
- 8th graders may attend out-of-season conditioning at their feeder high school (or at the high school of their residence area).
- If a non-high school parent approaches a coach and asks questions, the coach may share information about camps, out-of-season conditioning, summer contact days, and athletic programs **IF** the student lives in the high school's residence area or attends their high school's feeder school. Any questions beyond that should be referred to the principal or to the counseling department.

- High school coaches may attend athletic events for their feeder schools. Coaches may talk to athletes and parents ONLY from their feeder schools.

## Unacceptable Actions

- Prior to 8th grade registration for high school, coaches should not have conversations with current 8th grade students or parents about camps, summer contact days, out-of-season conditioning, or athletic programs with students that do not attend their feeder schools or live in their boundary areas.
- No 8th graders should attend out-of-season conditioning unless it is at their feeder high school or at the high school of their residence area. According to MSHSAA guidelines, this is not designed to be a “tryout” period where students attend conditioning programs at various schools, they should only attend one (the one for the high school they will be attending).
- High school coaches should not contact students or parents of students that do not attend their feeder school or live in their residence area. If a parent or student that does not meet this guideline contacts a coach about camps, out-of-season conditioning, summer contact days, or athletic programs, the coach should inform them that they cannot discuss that until 8th grade registration has occurred. Any questions related to academics and non-interscholastic activities should be referred to the counselor or principal at that high school so that the coach avoids the appearance of prohibited contact.
- 8th grade students that are a member of a school sport team should not participate in out-of-season conditioning. (Example: an 8th grade track athlete should not participate in high school off-season conditioning while part of the 8th grade track team; an 8th grade volleyball player should not participate in off-season conditioning during the 8th grade volleyball season).
- Sub-8th grade athletes should not participate in high school out-of-season conditioning programs or any other summer contact activities. (MSHSAA guideline 3.14.6).
- Out-of-season conditioning is permitted during a period the student is not a member of a school sport team as outlined in MSHSAA By-Law 3.14.6 in accordance with the guidelines in MSHSAA By-Law 3.14.7.
- High School coaches should not attend athletic events that do not include their feeder schools. If there is an exceptional situation (relative, etc.), the coach should notify the district AD prior to the event and should not wear any apparel that identifies their high school. To prevent the appearance of prohibited contact, the coach should avoid conversations with parents or athletes at that event.
- High school coaches should not be involved in any manner with out-of-season club activities (basketball tournaments, volleyball tournaments, 7-on-7 events, etc.) while

school is in session. This includes officiating, keeping score, or being in the vicinity of the bench. High school coaches may attend these events as spectators but should take care to avoid the appearance of prohibited contact. This differs from contact days during the summer, which have other specific guidelines.

### What is at risk?

- If a student enrolls at a school or transfers from one school to another because of undue influence, that student could lose eligibility for the remainder of his/her high school career and could lose eligibility for 365 days from the school from which the student transferred or was eligible to attend as an incoming freshman.
- The attempt to unduly influence a student to enroll in a school or transfer from one school to another by any staff member (including non-staff coaches) of the member school in question will be subject to suspension or termination from any or all job duties at that member school as determined by the superintendent or designee.
- The attempt to unduly influence a student to enroll in a school or transfer from one school to another by any person connected, directly or indirectly, with the member school (not limited to faculty, staff, students, coaches, parents of students, graduates, alumni associations, booster groups, etc.), may require the school to forfeit participation in the district and state tournament for the upcoming year. The offending school's membership in the Association could also be jeopardized.
- Please take note of these guidelines in order to not jeopardize the student's eligibility or the school's membership status. We ask that no one puts coaches in a position to violate these guidelines, just as we ask the coaches and staff not to violate these guidelines. If you have questions about academic programs at schools, contact the counselor or principal at that school. If you feel you are a victim of undue influence or persuasion, please contact your principal.

## Participation Requirements and Guidelines

### Information Required Prior to Participation

#### Insurance

Proof of insurance must be provided to each coach/sponsor prior to participation in extracurricular sports activities.

#### Physical Examination

No student will be allowed to try out, practice, or participate in a sporting activity without proof of a valid yearly physical examination.

## Activity Fees

***This fee has been waived by the district this year and will not need to be paid.***

## Impact Evaluation

All students must have a pre-assessment (IMPACT) for concussion injury prior to participation in tryouts, practice, or participation in a sporting activity.

## Transportation

No athletic team or activity participant shall be transported in a private vehicle without the consent of the school administration. All coaches and sponsors ***strongly encourage*** members of athletic teams, cheer/spirit squads, band members, and other organizations traveling to a contest to return on the bus provided by the district. The sponsor may grant permission for a student to ride home with his/her parents only. A written parental signature/consent must be documented.

## Expectations for Participants in Sports and Activities

1. Maintain creditable citizenship inside and outside the classroom.
2. Regularly attend classes and abide by your school's code of conduct for students (outlined in the student handbook).
3. Understand and abide by MSHSAA rules and regulations.
4. Show respect for property and authority.
5. Refrain from making inappropriate or negative comments regarding coach/sponsor, team, and teammates.
6. Exercise self-control at all times.
7. Know, understand, and respect the rules of the contest at all times.
8. Do not argue with a call made by an official during a contest. Respect their judgment and interpretation of the rules and events.
9. Accept victory and defeat with sportsmanship and character.
10. Accept the privilege of representing your school, community, and organization through participation in your sport/activity.
11. Realize that behavior, language, and appearance reflect not only on the individual, but also upon other members of the team and the school.
12. Recognize and appreciate the abilities of teammates and opponents.

## Letters and Awards

Letters may be earned by students for participation in sports and activities. Each coach establishes parameters for earning letters and will inform students of these requirements prior to the start of the season. Special awards may be given by the coaches.

## Fundraising

The St. Joseph School District and BOE work diligently to support all sports and activities financially. However, there may be times when teams/organizations seek to fundraise for additional funds. Any parent, teacher, or student should be aware of the St. Joseph School District fundraising policies prior to engaging in this type of activity. The Activities Director must approve any fundraising activity.

# Student Conduct and Safety Policies

## Social Networking Websites Policy

Student-athletes, as members of the SJSD community, are permitted to have profiles on social networking websites (such as but not limited to Snap Chat, Instagram, Twitter, X, Facebook, etc.) under the following stipulations:

- a) Illegal, offensive, or inappropriate pictures are not permitted.
- b) Pictures of alcohol, drugs, drug paraphernalia, tobacco, or photos of use of alcohol, drugs, drug paraphernalia, and tobacco are not permitted.
- c) Photos involving nudity or suggestive acts of a sexual nature are not permitted.
- d) Illegal, harassing, offensive, or inappropriate comments are not permitted.
- e) Information placed on any website(s) shall not violate the ethics and intent of each school's Student Code of Conduct and/or any policies contained in this student-athlete handbook (including the Student-Athlete Conduct Code). In addition, student-athletes are strongly discouraged from posting their personal contact information, such as cell phone numbers or campus address to help protect personal safety.
- f) It is recommended that you take proper security provisions and set your website and photos to be viewed by friends only. Take caution in who you allow to be your friend.

## MONITORING OF PROFILES

Student-athletes should remember that they are ambassadors of their school and always in the public eye. Additionally, content in profiles is considered *Public Domain*, meaning that once a

picture is posted on any site (public or private), the individual no longer possesses the protection of the right to privacy of that content.

The Athletic Department reserves the right to view content posted on student-athlete profiles to ensure the safety and integrity of the athlete and SJSD school community. Specifically, the Athletic Department may review profiles in the following circumstances:

- a) When content on a specific profile is brought to the attention of the Administration and Athletic Department;
- b) Before letters of recommendation, endorsements of character or professional references, or scholarship recommendations are made by Athletic Department staff;
- c) Prior to student-athletes competing in Conference or State championships;
- d) At the discretion of the Athletic Department.

NOTE: Local police and sheriff's offices, online predators, potential employers, and internship supervisors use these sites to screen or monitor individuals. Many graduate programs and scholarship committees also search these sites to screen applicants.

## BULLYING AND HAZING

To promote a safe learning environment for all students, the SJSD prohibits all forms of bullying, hazing, and student intimidation. Students participating in or encouraging inappropriate conduct will be disciplined in accordance with Board Policy JG-R. Such discipline may include, but is not limited to, suspension, expulsion from school, and removal from participation in activities. Students who have been subjected to hazing or bullying are instructed to promptly report such incidents to a school official.

## DEFINITIONS

### Hazing

For purposes of this policy, hazing is defined as any activity, on or off school grounds, that a reasonable person believes would negatively impact the mental or physical health or safety of a student or put the student in a ridiculous, humiliating, stressful, or disconcerting position for the purposes of initiation, affiliation, admission, membership, or maintenance of membership in any group, class, organization, club, or athletic team including, but not limited to, a grade level, student organization, or district-sponsored activity.

Hazing may include those actions that subject a student to extreme mental stress including, but not limited to, sleep deprivation, physical confinement, forced conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment or criminal activity, or other stress-inducing activities. Hazing may also

include but is not limited to, acts of physical brutality, whipping, beating, branding, exposing to the elements, forcing inhalation or consumption of any food, liquor, drug, tobacco product, or other substance, or any other forced physical activity that could adversely affect the physical health or safety of an individual.

Hazing can occur even when all students involved are willing participants. Hazing does not occur when a student is required to audition or try out for an organization when the criteria are reasonable, approved by the district, and legitimately related to the purpose of the organization.

## Bullying

In accordance with state law, bullying is defined as intimidation, unwanted aggressive behavior, or harassment that is repetitive or is substantially likely to be repeated and causes a reasonable student to fear for his or her physical safety or property, that substantially interferes with the educational performance, opportunities, or benefits of any student without exception, or that substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school. Bullying includes, but is not limited to, physical actions, including violence, gestures, theft, property damage, oral, written, or electronic communication, including name calling, put-downs, extortion, threats, or threats of reprisal or retaliation for reporting such acts.

## Sexual Misconduct

It is the policy of the SJSD that sexual harassment of students, employees, and use of the SJSD facilities is unacceptable and prohibited. Sexual harassment is the introduction of unwelcome sexual activities or comments into the work or learning situation. Often sexual harassment involves relationships of unequal power and contains elements of coercion – as when compliance with requests for sexual favors becomes a criterion for granting benefits. However, sexual harassment may also involve relationships among equals, as when repeated sexual advances or demeaning verbal behaviors have harmful effects on a person’s ability to study or work.

For general policy purposes, sexual harassment may be described as sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other physical conduct and expressive behavior of a sexual nature where:

- Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual’s employment or education;
- Submission to, or rejection of, such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for academic or employment decisions affecting that individual; or

- Such conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with an individual's academic or professional performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or demeaning employment or educational environment.

The above conduct constitutes sexual harassment when it is sufficiently severe or pervasive as to disrupt or undermine a person's ability to participate in or to receive the benefits, services, or opportunities, including unreasonably interfering with a person's work or educational performance.

Anyone subjected to suspected sexual harassment should contact your administration or immediate supervisor. These contacts are confidential. Formal complaints will be handled as a disciplinary matter as outlined in the code of conduct.

Retaliation against persons who file complaints is a violation of laws prohibiting discrimination and will result in disciplinary action against offenders. Supervisors who knowingly condone or fail to report incidents of harassment will themselves be subject to discipline.

## Communication and Conflict Resolution

### Meeting With a Coach/Sponsor

1. We believe that your student-athlete should meet with the coach/sponsor to discuss any concerns he/she has before requesting a parent meeting. This provides an opportunity for your student to take responsibility, learn, and grow. Parents who still wish to meet with a coach/sponsor should contact the coach/sponsor, as well as the Activities Director.
2. The Activities Director will facilitate a meeting between the coach/sponsor and parent.
3. Parents should not meet with coaches/sponsors in the height of emotion and should refrain from addressing coaches/sponsors after a contest. We ask that you wait 24 hours before contact.
4. Coaches/sponsors have the right to make playing time and participation decisions for their sport/activity, so concerns regarding these matters need to be carefully considered before requesting a meeting.

## Spectator Expectations

### Sportsmanship for Spectators

1. As a spectator, you attend contests to support the team and to appreciate the skill and competition of the participants. It is not acceptable for spectators to intimidate or ridicule participants, coaches, or officials.

2. High and Middle School athletics are learning experiences for students; mistakes will be made. As spectators, praise students in their attempts to improve themselves as athletes or participants.
3. Show respect for other teams, players, coaches, and fans. Treat them as you would treat a guest in your home.
4. Refrain from making taunting or derogatory remarks directed at any participant, coach, or fan.
5. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials and contest judges. Respect their willingness to participate in full public view.
6. Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play or performance by all participants.
7. Refrain from the use of any controlled substance before, during, and after the game (tailgating, meals, etc.).
8. Engage only in cheers that support and encourage teams and participants.
9. Recognize and compliment the efforts of school and league administrators for their efforts in providing opportunities for students to participate in positive extracurricular activities.
10. Be a positive behavior role model for all participants and spectators through your actions and by censuring those around you whose conduct is unbecoming.

\*\*A ticket or admission to a school event, sporting or organizational, is a privilege. Spectators are privileged to observe a contest, not licensed to verbally assault, provide vigorous criticism, or be generally obnoxious. Spectators engaging in these behaviors will be asked to leave the premises.

## Spectator Misconduct Consequences

If a parent or patron is asked to leave, or is removed, from the premises from any school event or contest, a letter will be sent to the parent or patron and the following consequences will be imposed. Parents or patrons can appeal this in writing to the Director of Non-Academic Student Services. If a parent or patron is on school grounds during the time periods specified below, law enforcement will be contacted, and violations will be handled according to law.

### 1st Offense (Removal from Event or Contest)

Minimum one game suspension from the next game played at that level. The suspension would end on the day following the completion of that next game.

### 2nd Offense (Removal from Event or Contest)

Minimum 90-day suspension from any district event, contest, or activity. The suspension will end on the day following the 90-day suspension.

### 3rd Offense (Removal from Event or Contest)

Permanent suspension from any district event, contest, game, or activity. This suspension would be in effect for the lifetime of the individual unless an appeal to the superintendent or designee is approved.

## SOURCES

Missouri State High School Activities Association Handbook – **MSHSAA Official Handbook**

St. Joseph School District Board of Education Policies - **IGD**

St. Joseph School District Activity Participation Rules for Middle and High Schools – See the high school or middle school administration to view specific guidelines pertaining to each school