

SCOTTSDALE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

2026-2027 MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

All student/athletes are responsible to follow the guidelines in the SUSD Uniform Code of Student Conduct as well as the SUSD Athletic Code of Conduct.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

1. **Athletic Code of Conduct:** This document shall be electronically signed and agreed to by all participants.
2. **Birth Certificate:** Must be recorded and on file with the school administrative office.
3. **Enrollment:** Only students enrolled in SUSD schools in grades 6 through 8, inclusive, shall be eligible for athletics at that school. A home-schooled student may be eligible if said student follows A.R.S. 15-802.01(A) and has documentation provided by the office of the Arizona State Superintendent of Public Education. Students enrolled full-time in Scottsdale Online are eligible to participate in their home school if they meet all other participation requirements.
4. **Insurance:** All athletes must be insured by his/her parent or guardian and evidence of insurance provided including insurance company and policy number.
5. **Physical Examination and Parent Consent:** Current yearly physical examination and parent consent must be on file prior to participation in the first practice. The physical examination for the following school year shall be given on or after March 1.
6. **Participation:** SUSD offers Junior Varsity teams for grades 6 and 7 and Varsity teams for grades 6, 7 and 8. 8th Graders are not permitted to play Junior Varsity, and no player may participate in more than one competitive game per day.
7. **Academic and Scholarship:** SUSD has established a 2.0 GPA (current GPA) as the targeted GPA for all middle and high school students as the minimal standard.

Eligibility Requirements: SUSD has established a 2.0 current GPA as the minimal standard for participation.

- State No Pass/No Play requirements are determined by no F's at the most recent marking period
 - All students below a 2.0 GPA or with an F in the current marking period will be ineligible for interscholastic competition.
 - ✓ Require weekly grade checks
 - If a student has below a 2.0 GPA the following applies:
 - ✓ Students are eligible to practice before the next grade check
 - ✓ Students who become academically ineligible are ineligible for one week and can compete when the student presents evidence to administration that he/she has a current GPA of above a 2.0 and no Fs after that week
 - ✓ Transfer students will be evaluated based on their current transfer grades
 - The general standards shall apply to special education students, including students eligible under Section 504, except that such eligibility shall be determined by a case-by-case basis in relationship to the respective students' Individual Education Program. The general standards shall apply to English language learners determined by a case-by-case basis in relationship to their Individual Language Learning Plan.
8. **Uniforms/Equipment:** Athletes are responsible for returning or paying for all equipment and uniforms issued to them. Debts created by not returning school equipment must be paid before going out for another sport.

9. **Attendance:** To be eligible for the Competitive Tier 2 of each season, students must be an active participant during the Tier 1 season and Saturday Festival unless excused prior to by coach and Athletic Director. The athlete must attend at school a minimum of 50% of the school day to participate or practice that day unless excused by the administration. In and out of school suspended students are not eligible to participate in practice or games. School-related events/field trips are not considered an absence.
10. **Athletic Fee:** Tier 1 athletic fees are \$75 and must be paid prior to first practice or Saturday Festival. Tier 2 fees are \$40 and must be paid prior to the first competitive contest and before any game equipment is issued. The fee for Track/Field, Spirit line, and Cross Country is \$90 for their season. State tax credit laws do not allow for refunds and all SUSD athletic fees are not refundable. Payments can be made online at sUSD.org or at the site administration building. If payment is made online proof must be submitted to site administration.
11. **General Appearance:** An athlete must dress and look at the part of an athlete while participating during school. He/she should keep his/her hair well groomed, his/her skin clean, and his/her clothes neat and clean.
12. **Ejections:** If an athlete is ejected from a competition, they are ineligible for the remainder of that day and the entire next game. If it is the last game of the season, then the athlete is ineligible for the first game of their next sport.

TRAINING RULES

In addition to the requirements and consequences set forth in the SUSD Student Code of Conduct, all student athletes are responsible for adhering to the training rules listed below. These rules apply on or off campus during the season of sport. Any violations of the rules stated below will carry consequences as stipulated by the SUSD Uniform Code of Student Conduct AND to be determined by the coach of that sport and subject to review by the Athletic Director. Alcohol and Other Drugs carry specific penalties as listed below:

1. **Student Conduct:** an athlete must always be a positive representative of the school and must be courteous to teachers, students, fellow athletes and adults.
2. **Conduct Detrimental to the Team:** An athlete may be cut from the team at any time the coach believes his/her behavior is detrimental to the team, or the coach may take other reasonable action to see that another infraction does not reoccur.
3. **Tobacco:** Possession or consuming any tobacco product, including vape and e-cigarettes is strictly prohibited.
4. **Travel:** Students must go to and return from athletic contests by school-supplied or designated travel. If a student must travel to the contest with his/her parent, he/she must have his/her parents make the request in writing to the coach prior to the contest. If a student must travel from the contest with his/her parent, then the parent must give the request in writing to the coach in charge. Once at the site of the contest, the athlete is not to leave the site without permission of the coach.
5. **Bullying, Harassment, Fighting, Threat and Intimidation:** Includes a broad range of negative acts that are intended to inflict physical, sexual, or psychological harm on another person is strictly prohibited.
6. **Hazing:** Includes any intentional or reckless act committed by an individual or group of students against other students where both of the following apply: (1) The act was in connection with an initiation into an affiliation with, or membership of, a school sponsored athletic team or group, and (2) The act causes, contributes to, or poses a substantial risk of physical or mental injury or degradation is strictly prohibited. Consequences for hazing include but are not limited to automatic suspension from athletic participation up to 9 days pending investigation and subject to removal from the team.
7. **Social Media usage:** The use of social media must be done in a manner that is respectful in nature and inappropriate use of social media could result in removal from the team as conduct detrimental to the team.
8. **Alcohol and Other Drugs:** Violation per the SUSD Uniform Code of Conduct.
Level 1 Violation: This includes first offense as defined in the SUSD Uniform Code of Conduct.
 - a. The loss of eligibility from all participation will be for ninety (90) school days.

- b. The athlete will have an opportunity to regain eligibility after thirty (30) school days by completing the district-drug and alcohol counseling program.
- c. Athletes may practice, not compete, upon the school receiving confirmation that athletes have signed up for drug and alcohol counseling and producing a drug negative test from a state certified drug test facility. Failure to complete the district-approved counseling program will result in re-imposing the ninety (90) day suspension from all athletic participation.
- d. Athletes in drug and alcohol counseling should participate in twenty (20) hours of community service.

Level 2 Violation: This includes second offense within 365 days and/or distribution as defined in the Uniform Code of Student Conduct. As stipulated in the SUSD Uniform Code of Conduct, other first violations may be considered level 2 if other aggravating factors are present. Such determination is made by site administration.

- a. Removal from the team.
- b. During the last two weeks of a sport: Removed for the remainder of the season and suspension from the next sport the athlete participates in for the period to total three (3) competitive weeks.

1. DUE PROCESS

- 1. All athletes will be presented with a written statement of the Athletic Code of Conduct and accompanying regulations and penalties at the beginning of the season and electronically agreed to.
- 2. Upon receipt of information regarding a violation of the code, the coach will discuss the matter immediately with the Athletic Director and athlete (s).
- 3. If the coach is sure a violation has occurred, he/she will:
 - A. Notify the athlete of the exact nature of the violation. The coach shall also notify the parents of the athlete, giving the same information before the penalty takes effect, or;
 - B. If two or more coaches are involved and the incident is sufficiently broad; the coaches will work collaboratively to determine disposition.
- 4. If the athlete and/or his/her parents are unclear as to the reason for the disciplinary action or are dissatisfied with it, they may request a meeting with the coach and Athletic Director.