

SCOTTSDALE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 2026-2027 HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

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

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

1. **Athletic Code of Conduct:** This document must be electronically signed and agreed to by all participants.
2. **Birth Certificate:** Must be recorded and on file with the school administrative office.
3. **Brainbook:** All athletes must complete the concussion education course Brainbook. This is only required once in a high school career and is available at nfhs.org or within Register My Athlete.
4. **Opioid:** All athletes must complete an opioid education course. This is only required once in a high school career and is available at nfhs.org or within Register My Athlete.
5. **Hazing Prevention:** All athletes must complete bullying and Hazing Prevention education courses. This is only required once in a high school career and is available at nfhs.org or within register my athlete.
6. **Enrollment:** Only students enrolled in SUSD AIA member school in grades 9 through 12, inclusive, shall be eligible for interscholastic competition 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. Curriculum for home-school students must be provided. Students enrolled full time in Scottsdale Online are eligible to participate at their home school as long as they meet all other participation requirements.
7. **Insurance:** All athletes must be insured by his/her parent or guardian and evidence of insurance provided including insurance company and policy number into Register My Athlete.
8. **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 (AIA Bylaw 15.7.1).
9. **Academics and Scholarship:** To Participate a student must be enrolled in a minimum of six credit courses or the equivalent in the first six semesters of high school. Graduating seniors need a minimum of five credit courses in their senior year (4 classes with administrative approval). Any course for which the Scottsdale Unified School District issues credit or dual credit (3+ hours of college credit) qualify.

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
 - Students below a 2.0 GPA or with an F in the current marking period will be ineligible for interscholastic competition.
 - ✓ Require frequent grade checks -minimum every 4.5 weeks to determine current GPA and any Fs
 - If a student has below a 2.0 GPA and participates in AIA sanctioned athletics 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 as prescribed by the **SUSD Grade Check Calendar**
 - ✓ 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.
 - Students who withdraw from a brick and mortar or full semester eLearning course after the first quarter mid-grade of a semester will receive a mark of WP (athletically eligible) or WF (athletically ineligible SUSD HSPG).
 - Students who withdraw from a brick and mortar or full semester eLearning course after quarter 1 and quarter 3 will receive a mark of F on their transcript, regardless of the current grade in the course (SUSD HSPG).
10. **Team Membership:** An athlete who is a member of a school team shall not practice or compete with any other group, club, organization, association, etc., in that sport during the interscholastic season of competition (AIA Bylaw 14.4.1).

11. **Changing Teams:** If an athlete quits a team, he/she may not go out for another team until the season for the team he/she quit is over. This may be waived by agreement of both coaches and administrative approval.
12. **Transfer Rule:** Students changing enrollment to/from one school to another school shall be considered a transfer student. Upon completion and filing with AIA a form 550 (Application of Eligibility), student shall be eligible to participate in interscholastic competition at the school to which he/she transferred after the first 50% of the power ranked regular season contests (AIA Bylaw 15.1.1).

Exception:

AIA Bylaw 5.10.1.1.2 states that a transfer student who plays only in sub-varsity competitions shall have immediate eligibility but is ineligible to participate at the varsity level in regular season and post-season competitions for the season in that sport. A decision to participate only at sub-varsity levels must be made prior to the season of competition. An athlete may declare prior to the season to play sub-varsity and must sign declaration to that effect in the school athletic office.

13. **Equipment:** Athletes are responsible for returning or paying for all equipment and uniforms issued to them. Debts must be cleared before going out for another sport or before receiving school transcript records.
14. **Attendance:** All athletes must attend at school a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of the school day to participate or practice that day, unless excused by the administration. School related events/field trips are not considered an absence. Students who are suspended, in or out of school, are not permitted to practice or play.
15. **Athletic Fee:** The \$200 athletic fee must be paid prior to the first contest, and before game equipment or uniforms will be issued. Each sport must be paid separately and there is a \$400 cap per athlete per year. State tax credit laws don't permit refund. Payment can be made online at sUSD.org or at the site Bookstore. If payment is made online, proof of payment must be submitted to the campus Bookstore.

TRAINING RULES

In addition to the requirements and consequences set forth in the SUSD Student Code of Conduct and the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) regulations, all student athletes are responsible for adhering to the training rules listed below. These rules apply on and 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 and/or Principal. Alcohol and other drugs carry specific penalties as listed below:

1. **Student Conduct:** An athlete must be always a positive representative of the school and must be courteous to teachers, students, officials, administrators, 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 conduct 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 or from 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. Once at the site of the contest, the athlete is not to leave the site without permission of the coach.
5. **Bullying, Fighting, Harassment, 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-approved drug and alcohol counseling.
- c. Athlete may practice, not compete, upon the school receiving confirmation that athlete has signed up for drug and alcohol counseling and producing a drug negative test from a state certified drug testing 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 of time to total three (3) competitive weeks.

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 through Register My Athlete.
2. Upon receipt of information regarding a potential 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. If the violation raises to the level that may result in the player being removed from the team the coach shall also notify the parents of the athlete, 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.

Important AIA Rules that will initiate ineligibility or suspension

14.4.1 Non School Participation - A student who is a member or becomes a member of a school team shall not practice, have practiced or compete with any other group, club, organization, association, etc., in that sport, or derivative of that sport not already sanctioned by the AIA, during the interscholastic season of competition. This rule applies to the following team sports: football, flag football, baseball, basketball, volleyball, soccer, softball, track relay and swimming relay teams. For purposes of this rule, the interscholastic season of competition shall begin on the competition date of each sport and conclude with that particular team's final game. Any student violating the above rule shall forfeit his/her eligibility for a minimum of the balance of the season for that sport or up to a maximum of one calendar year.

15.11.1.1 Name Image and Likeness (NIL): A student-athlete may benefit from the use of their name, image, and likeness (NIL) provided the NIL is not connected to his/her AIA sanctioned high school team or activity program. A student that is in violation of this bylaw and shall immediately lose eligibility if that student, his/her family member, or anyone else on behalf of that student, enters into an agreement with an individual, corporate entity, partnership, association, or any other party or organization.

15.12 Recruitment Rule – There shall be no recruitment of athletes. Recruitment is defined as the act of influencing a student to enroll in a school or to transfer from one school to another in order that the student may participate in interscholastic athletics. No school administrator, athletic coach or employee of a high school district shall engage in recruitment either by direct contact with a student or indirectly

through parents, legal guardians, common school employees, directors of summer athletic programs or other persons who are able to influence the student's choice of a school. Any student violating the above rule shall forfeit his/her eligibility for a minimum of the balance of the season for that sport or up to a maximum of one calendar year.

16.3.1 Sportsmanship Rule Ejection - If an AIA contest official determines that a player has acted in an unsportsmanlike manner the player may be ordered to leave the contest and will be ineligible for the next contest.

16.3.1.1.4 Fighting Ejection - Ineligible for the next two or three contests (depending on sport) at that level of competition and all other contests during that interim at any level.

16.3.1.1.4.1 Any player ejected for fighting shall be ineligible for the next two contests in the following sports: badminton, cross country, football, flag football, golf, soccer, swimming, tennis, track, beach volleyball, and wrestling.

16.3.1.1.4.2 Any player ejected for fighting shall be ineligible for the next three contests in the following sports: baseball, basketball, volleyball, and softball.

16.3.2 Leaving Bench Area - When two or more persons (including coaches, nonplaying contestants and nonparticipating school personnel) leave their team's bench area to initiate a confrontation, or during an altercation in progress, the contest officials shall eject any person they determine to be in violation, the contest officials may terminate the contest and violating team forfeit, and if the contest is terminated during a tournament or post-season play, the offending team(s) will be removed from further tournament or post-season competition

16.3.3 Entering the Spectator Area PROHIBITED – No player may leave the playing area and enter the spectator area of the facility to engage in any type of verbal or physical conflict. Notwithstanding any other rule in the Constitution and Bylaws, the MINIMUM penalties for violation of this rule are the player is ineligible to participate in all interscholastic athletics for the remainder of the school year.

15.10 TRANSFER RULE – Except as stated in 15.10.6, after enrolling and attending one or more classes, a student changing enrollment from one school (sending school) to another school (receiving school) shall be considered a transferring student. For information and record keeping purposes, the receiving and sending school shall reasonably cooperate and complete Form 550.

15.10.1 In team sports, a student shall be ineligible for all power ranked contests at the varsity level until after the first 50% of the maximum allowable Power Rankings regular season contests in those sports in which the student participated during the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the season in which the student is seeking eligibility. In sports permitting invitationals/tournaments, the student shall be ineligible for the first invitational/tournament. Participation is defined as a student participating in the sport during a regular season game as is specified by the AIA standardized calendar.

15.10.2 For individual sports, the student will be ineligible for 50% of scheduled opportunities, including invitationals/tournaments for that school.

