

Southington Local Schools Athletic Handbook



CHALKER WILDCATS

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PHILOSOPHY

Interscholastic athletics at Southington Schools shall attempt to teach a great deal more than mere competition between two individuals or two teams representing different high schools. The primary goal shall be to assist with the development of each individual athlete into a better person through the teaching of good, sound character traits.

The coaches shall encourage each individual and the team to strive for excellence in all that they do, but never “to win at any cost”. Athletes at Southington Local Schools shall be measured in the manner in which our young people respond to:

1. Coaching and instruction
2. Being good sports and demonstrating fair play
3. Understanding, appreciating and participating in good teamwork
4. Developing of character traits such as loyalty, honesty and sacrifice
5. Respect for authority
6. Perseverance and hard work means success
7. Using equipment properly and following all safety procedures

The policy of the school is to provide an athletic opportunity for all students.

The student athlete represents the Southington School both in school and in the community. School administrators and coaches expect the athlete to learn to be a responsible citizen, practice good sportsmanship, respect the rights of others, be drug free and be a vital part of both the school and community. Please remember, participation in athletics is a privilege.

SCHOLARSHIP/ELIGIBILITY

A pupil must follow the policies, rules and regulations as set forth by the O.H.S.A.A. and the Southington Local Board of Education. No special tests or other considerations can be given for the purpose of making a pupil eligible.

If participating in an OHSAA sanctioned sport, high school students (grades 9-12) must be currently enrolled in a member school and have received passing grades in a minimum of five (5) one credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. (NOTE: Students taking post-secondary options must comply with these standards).

Second quarter seventh, eighth, and first quarter 9th grade students: To be eligible, a student-athlete must be currently enrolled in a member school and have received passing grades in a minimum of five (5) subjects in the immediately preceding grading period.

- You may not use summer school grades for failing grades received or lack of courses taken in the final grading period.
- Your semester and yearly grades have no effect on eligibility.
- Those taking postsecondary school courses must comply with OHSAA scholarship regulations.
- The eligibility or ineligibility of a student continues until the start of the fifth school day of the next grading period, at which time the grades from the immediately preceding grading period become effective.

Age Limitation: OHSAA Bylaw 4-2-1 states “When a high school student (grades 9-12) turns 20 years of age, he/she becomes ineligible for interscholastic athletics”. Also, OHSAA Bylaw 4-2-2 states if a student enrolled in grade 7 or 8 attains the age of 15 before August 1, they shall be ineligible to participate in the 7th or 8th grade interscholastic athletics for the school year commencing in that calendar year.

RESIDENCE AND TRANSFER OF SCHOOLS (Bylaw 4-7 Exceptions 1-11)

You may attend any public or non-public high school in which you are accepted when you enter high school (grade 9) from a 7th – 8th grade school. Eligibility at that school is established by:

1. Participating in a contest (scrimmage, preview or regular season game) prior to the first day of school
2. Attending the first day of school at any high school in grades 10, 11, 12

3. If a student transfers after the fifth day of the student's 9th grade year or having established eligibility prior to the start of school by playing in a contest as described in #1 above

Once you establish eligibility at a school, a transfer to a different high school will mean you will be ineligible for athletics from the date of enrollment in the new school. There are exceptions to this regulation. To see if you qualify for an exception, you and your parents should arrange a meeting with your principal or athletic administrator and review the document entitled "The OHSAA Transfer Bylaw," which is found online at www.ohsaa.org, prior to transferring to another school.

If your parent or legal guardian lives outside Ohio, you are ineligible unless one of the six (6) exceptions to the regulation is met. These exceptions to the out-of-state residency rules are found in Bylaw 4-6 at www.ohsaa.org.

Note: A biological parent with custodial rights or adoptive parent must reside in Ohio.

SEMESTERS OF ENROLLMENT

After establishing ninth-grade eligibility, you are permitted eight (8) semesters of athletic eligibility.

- The semesters are taken in order of attendance once ninth-grade eligibility has been established. Also, semesters during which a student simply does not attend a high school due to withdrawal will be counted in the total of the eight (8) semesters that are permitted.
- Semesters are counted toward eligibility whether you participate in interscholastic athletics or not.
- Those with a disability may qualify for an exception to this regulation and should arrange a meeting with the principal or athletic administrator to review the exception.

ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

Students are expected to attend school in order to participate in all practices and contests. Consequently, students must adhere to **each** of the following guidelines:

ATTENDANCE

Student-athletes are expected to attend school in order to participate in all practices and contests. Consequently, students must adhere to each of the following guidelines:

- A. Students must be in attendance before the end of first period in order to participate in practices, games or scrimmages.
- B. Student-athletes who come in after that time must have a doctor's excuse in order to participate in events that evening.
- C. If student-athlete is sent home by the school nurse due to a fever they will not be able to participate that day. If they leave due to other illnesses, parental permission must be given in order for that athlete to participate. (in writing) Coach or administration will have the final decision. They must have attended 4 classroom periods to be able to participate.
- D. If they leave early due to doctor, dentist or other medical appointments, they must have an excuse from that appointment.
- E. The above guidelines apply in reference to the final weekday when practices, games or scrimmages are scheduled over the weekend
- F. Students who receive **ADVANCED ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL** may not be subject to the above guidelines. (field trips, funerals, college visits are examples)

PLAYER'S PLEDGE

The Player's Pledge extends beyond mere participation in an athletic endeavor. It requires a full commitment from the participant as an athlete, student, and school citizen. Mutual respect and team membership are to be expected equally of player and coach and, for the player, involve the following promises:

As a player in my school, I promise:

1. To be a model of appropriate language and behavior as an ambassador of good sportsmanship.
2. To be accountable and responsible in a trustworthy manner.
3. To respect and dignify each of my teammates and coaches as an individual.
4. To place the team's goals, welfare, and success above my own.
5. To consistently attend all practices.
6. To play and practice safely and to ask of myself as much as I ask of my teammates in practices and games.
7. To be coachable and to push myself in an attempt to reach my full potential.
8. To be receptive to constructive criticism from my coaches.
9. To accept time demands with respect to my academic, athletic, and family responsibilities.
10. To promote among all my teammates and coaches a solid sense of team membership.
11. To demonstrate a genuine concern and respect for my sport, my teammates and coaches, the opposing teams, coaches, and officials.
12. To hold myself in high regard.
13. To demonstrate honesty, loyalty, integrity, and respect on a consistent basis.
14. To keep my focus and composure at all times.
15. To work, whenever appropriate, as a role model of citizenship, sportsmanship, and scholarship with younger students in our school system.
16. To communicate openly and honestly with my parents and coaches regarding my status on the team.
17. To adhere to all team and school rules.
18. To refrain from the use of tobacco (including electronic cigarettes, etc), alcohol, and drugs of any kind.

RESPONSIBILITIES

All athletes who wish to participate in interscholastic athletics must complete and submit:

1. Pre-Participation Physical Form
2. Concussion Informational Sheet
3. Emergency Medical Authorization Form (Both Sides)

4. The Southington Athletic Contract signed by guardian/parent and participant
5. Drug Policy Informed Consent Form
6. Meet scholastic eligibility requirements
7. Waiver of Insurance Form

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. On the field we expect an athlete to:
 - A. Be prompt and punctual. The coaches must be consulted if it is necessary to miss practice or a game either medical or personal.
 - B. Use no profanity.
 - C. Strive for all effort and teamwork.
 - D. Have self-control. Fits of temper will not be tolerated.
 - E. Have respect for coaches, officials and opponents.

2. In the classroom, we expect an athlete to:
 - A. Be as fine a student as he is capable of being. A good athlete will plan his time so that he will have sufficient time for school work.
 - B. Attend school at least one-half day in order to participate in either practice sessions or game contests. Under the special conditions, this rule may be waived by the Athletic Director or Principal.

3. Care of Equipment:

One of the great values of athletics at Southington Schools has been the teaching of responsibility in the care of equipment. This equipment meets all specified standards as outlined by the O.H.S.A.A. We expect each athlete to care for this equipment.

 - A. The school athletic department will issue every athlete the equipment necessary to participate in the activity, where applicable.
 - B. The original equipment issued to a student as a participant must be returned at the close of the season. Exchange of equipment among athletes cannot be permitted.
 - C. Athletes will be held financially responsible for any lost, damaged or misplaced equipment.

4. Injury Prevention

All injuries are to be reported to the coach when they occur. Have all skin abrasions treated, no matter how minor they seem, especially blisters.

5. Athletic Code of Conduct and Southington Athletic Rules

Athletes should consult their coach, and vice-versa, in regard to the OHSAA rules pertaining to playing sports not sanctioned by the OHSAA. Caution is advised. It is possible to lose eligibility in certain cases.

The following infractions will also result in disciplinary action:

1. Participation in any action resulting in **the filing of criminal charges** (excluding non-alcohol/drug related traffic violations) is subject to disciplinary actions
2. The theft or willful destruction or defacing of athletic or personal property
3. The chronic violation of school rules and regulations
4. Violation of hazing and/or sexual harassment policies. Hazing is defined as an act, including physical, mental, or psychological, which subjects another person, voluntarily or involuntarily, to anything that may abuse, mistreat, degrade, humiliate, harass, or intimidate him/her, or which may, in any fashion, compromise his/her inherent dignity as a person. Hazing can also be a form of initiation into a particular club or activity.
5. Any act or gesture which is considered by the administration or board of education to be rude, obscene or immoral and/or reflects poorly on Southington Local Schools.
6. The student-athlete's use of, consumption, possession of alcohol, illegal drugs, prescription drugs not their own and/or performance enhancing drugs or supplements and tobacco products (including electronic cigarettes).
7. The hosting of a party where underage consumption and/or illegal drugs or are present.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL CONSEQUENCES:

Follow all rules of the school and those set forth by the coach of that particular sport. Any athlete that engages in the use of alcoholic beverages, drugs, or smoking will be denied the right to participate according to the Southington Local Schools Drug Policy.

DRUG TESTING OF STUDENTS IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The Board recognizes that the interscholastic athletic program is an integral part of the entire educational program. Through participation in interscholastic athletics, students have an opportunity for educational and character-building experiences.

The athlete assumes responsibility for regulating his/her personal life in ways that make him/her an efficient member of a team and a worthy representative of his/her school. Drug use/abuse by student athletes is a major detriment to these goals. The Board believes that by implementing a drug-testing program it encourages students who want to participate in interscholastic athletics to remain drug-free. **During the drug testing of student athletes, a student unable to produce a urine sample after a two hour limit, will be subject to a hair follicle assessment the same day as our original testing date. Refusal will be equal to a positive result.**

The Board may require interscholastic athletes to participate in a drug-testing program. Prior to the initial drug testing of a student, the student and the parent(s) must sign a form consenting to the drug testing. Students may be tested prior to the start of each sport season. In addition, random testing of 10% of the athletes on the team may be conducted on a weekly basis throughout the season.

If an athlete tests positive for the presence of drugs, a second sample is tested. No further action is taken if the second test is negative. If the second test is positive, the athlete's parent(s) are notified and the school principal convenes a meeting with the student athlete and his/her parent(s). The student has two options as follows.

1. The athlete must participate for six weeks in an assistance program that includes a weekly urinalysis.
2. If the athlete refuses the first option, he/she is suspended from athletics for the remainder of the current season and the next athletic season.

A second offense will result in the automatic suspension of the athlete for the current season and the next athletic season. A third offense results in suspension for the remainder of the current season and the next two athletic seasons. There are no penalties involving regular school attendance, nor any referrals for criminal penalties.

Following this policy are procedures to conduct the drug test, to define the chain of custody of the test samples and to access test results.

Drug, Alcohol, Controlled Substance Possession and/or use outside of District Testing Program

First Offense

- A first violation of the code of conduct will result in denial of privileges of athletic participation for a minimum of 20% of the next contests scheduled for the season (current season or, if the violation occurs at a time when the student is not participating in athletics, the next games in the next season in which the student has previously participated in). During the suspension, the student-athlete may attend, but not participate, in the team's regularly scheduled practices, competitive contests/and or events, including all post-season tournaments and games. (Post season contests are an extension of the regular season).
- The student shall be required to have a professional assessment and follow the recommendation of the assessment. Any cost of the program incurred is the responsibility of the athlete.
 - The student cannot participate in scheduled contests until the assessment is complete.
 - Failure to comply with the recommendation of the assessment will result in dismissal from the team.

- Students may attend but not participate in scheduled practice sessions during the denial of participation period.

Second Offense

The student-athlete will be denied participation for one calendar year from the infraction/suspension date. The student must participate in and complete a professional education program to correct the abuse problem before reinstatement to any athletic team. When the student-athlete completes the educational program he/she may then return to the team as a practice player only until his/her imposed suspension is complete. Any cost of such program incurred is the responsibility of the parent.

Third Offense

The student shall forfeit the remaining eligibility to participate in all Southington Schools athletic programs for the remainder of their high school career.

NOTES:

1. Any participant excluded for the remainder of any sport's season forfeits his/her right to any athletic award and awards' program.
2. With any suspension from athletic participation the student-athlete must maintain membership on the team through the last regular season contest or the penalty/suspension will be assessed during the next sport season.
3. The High School Principal will conduct an investigation and an informal hearing for the student prior to any disciplinary actions.

SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF DRUGS/ALCOHOL/CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES:

First Offense: Any athlete involved in the sale and/or distribution of any drug, alcohol, or chemical substance will be immediately removed from the particular sport(s) and will be permanently denied athletic participation for the duration of the athlete's high school career. (An athlete may, after one calendar year, appeal to the Administration for reconsideration of the policy.)

Second Offense: The student athlete will be denied participation in all athletics for his/her high school career.

STUDENT IS IN ATTENDANCE BUT NOT USING:

Athletes attending a party or other gathering where alcohol or other illegal controlled substances are being unlawfully consumed shall be considered in violation. An athlete is required to leave the party or gathering immediately. Any violation occurring which involves law enforcement officials and/or a confession and have pending legal action, the administration shall issue the following disciplinary actions.

First Offense: Written Warning

Second Offense: See 1st offense under Drug and Alcohol Consequences

Third Offense: See 2nd offense under Drug and Alcohol Consequences

Fourth Offense: See 3rd offense under Drug and Alcohol Consequences

SELF-REFERRAL POLICY:

Self referrals can only happen before a student is selected to be tested. A student may give a self-referral one time. The option will be considered if a student first seeks assistance in dealing with the alcohol/drug and any other problem by self-referral to their coach, guidance counselor, school administrator, or Athletic Director. The athlete must also agree to participate in an assessment as described by school and follow all recommendations of the assessment. The assessment must be scheduled and completed within fourteen (14) days of the self-referral. Refusal or failure to complete the assessment will result in the full first offense penalty as provided in this policy (See Section I). The athlete is immediately ineligible upon utilizing this option until the High School Administration and Athletic Director declares all the requirements of the self-referral option fulfilled. Any cost of the program incurred is the responsibility of the athlete/parent.

Notes: A self-referral cannot be used by a participant as a method to avoid consequences once the policy has been violated and a student has been identified as having violated such policy.

INVESTIGATION PROCESS:

The High School Principal will conduct an investigation and an informal hearing for the student will be held prior to any disciplinary action. Also, the Ohio Revised Code 3313.664 does not mandate any form of due process in connection with the removal of students from extracurricular activities. Rather, it requires only that a policy be adopted which authorizes the superintendent, other administrators, coaches, or pupil activity supervisors to prohibit a student from participating in any or all extracurricular activities. Furthermore, the removal may be imposed for any period of time specified in the policy.

INDIVIDUAL SPORT RULE:

Coaches may establish additional rules and regulations for their respective sports. Penalties will be designated/handled by their respective coach. Participants and parents will be informed in writing before the season. These rules will be discussed at the mandatory preseason meeting and will be on file in the High School Principal's or Athletic Director's office.

OHSAA--EJECTION FOR UNSPORTING CONDUCT (DISQUALIFICATION FOR UNSPORTING CONDUCT OR FLAGRANT VIOLATION):

Any player ejected or disqualified for unsporting conduct or flagrant foul shall be ineligible for all contests for the **remainder of the day**. In addition, the player shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels in that sport until two (2) regular season/tournament contests (one (1) in football) are played at the same level as the ejection or disqualification. When an ejection or disqualification of a player results from an illegal substitution in baseball, softball, or basketball, the two (2) game suspension does not apply. (See Section I)

If the ejection or disqualification occurs in the last contest of the season, the student shall be ineligible for the same period of the time as stated above in the next sport in which the student participates. A student under suspension may not sit on the team bench, enter the locker room, or be affiliated with the team in any way traveling to, during, or traveling after the contest(s).

A student who is ejected or disqualified a second time shall be suspended for the remainder of the season in that sport.

A student who has been ejected or disqualified for unsporting conduct for the second time in the season during the last contest shall be ineligible for a period of time/number of contests subject

to the discretion of the Commissioner. The period of ineligibility shall commence during the next sport in which the student participates.

It is the responsibility of the local school authorities to ensure this regulation is enforced. When an ineligible student is allowed to participate, forfeiture of the contest is mandatory. This regulation shall apply to all regular season and tournament contests and shall in no way limit the discretionary authority of the Commissioner as specified in the OHSAA tournament regulations. In accordance with Bylaw 8-3-1, the **decisions of contest officials are final.**

CONCLUSION:

It is imperative that student-athletes and parent/guardian(s) understand that participants in interscholastic activities, within the Southington Local School District, will adhere to the following hierarchy of jurisdiction when infractions of any kind occur.

- Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA)
- Student & Parent Athletic Handbook
- Chalker High School Student Handbook

NOTE: Any infraction occurring during school hours or school-sponsored activities and the action/offense warrants a police report, the student-athlete may be subject to both disciplinary action from Chalker Jr/Sr High School Student Handbook and the Student & Parent Athletic Handbook.

NOTE: Out of school suspension takes precedence over any athletic suspension. If suspended athletically, the suspension will not be enforced until after the school consequence is completed. Depending on when the infraction occurs, a student-athlete may exceed the athletic suspension rule.

Athletic Council

Athletic Council shall be convened on an as needed basis to assist with the review of the disciplinary issues, athletic handbook and the drug policy. The council shall consist of the

building principal, athletic director, varsity head coaches (or representative), and athletic liaison appointed from the Southington Local Schools board of education.

Further rules include the following, but are not limited to:

1. Violation of federal, state, or local laws or conviction of a felony.
2. A dismissed athlete may appeal the dismissal by procedures adopted by the Board of Education. The appeal would be directed to the building principal.
3. Unexcused absences (as determined by the head coach):
4. No athlete shall participate in any other sport or related activity without both coaches' permission. The athlete must declare which sport is the primary sport. The Athletic Director shall be notified.
5. Discipline - Coaches are responsible for discipline.

ATHLETIC AWARDS (OHSAA Sanctioned or Club):

Upon recommendation of the Head Coach and the approval of the Athletic Director, a student who has fulfilled the requirements and finished the season in good standing, shall be awarded a letter in the sport in which he/she first earns the letter. Awards given to seniors and injured players shall be at the coach's discretion.

First year awards will be a monogram "C" and pin designating the sport. Thereafter, the person will be given a pin for the second, third, and fourth year award. *All letters earned shall be applied toward one's senior award.*

Varsity Letter Certificate- A certificate will be awarded to each varsity letter winner. The certificate will indicate the number of letters that the athlete has received in that sport.

Junior Varsity Awards - any student who is a faithful member of junior varsity athletic squad, upon recommendation of the coach, receives a certificate. The certificate is to be prepared by the junior varsity coach.

Remember: participation in athletics is a privilege.

By signing this, you are stating that you will not knowingly possess, consume, purchase, attempt to purchase, show evidence of having consumed, transmit, distribute, offer for sale, or be under the influence of any narcotic, hallucinogen, steroid, alcoholic beverage, marijuana, nicotine, intoxicant of any kind, or drug not specifically prescribed for you by a certified physician.

Further, you are stating that you will not be present at any activity or party attended primarily by students or recent graduates where illegal consumption/use of any of the above substances is prevalent. A student found to be in attendance at such an activity or party but found not to be under the influence of or not to have used any of the above substances shall be bound by the Core Team's recommendation for him/her and may be punished by suspension or dismissal from the team or squad in which he/she is participating. This contract shall be in effect from the first day of the school year until the first day of the next school year.

PARENT'S PLEDGE

In your role as a parent, you obviously love and are concerned about your child's welfare. You want the best for him or her. But an athlete can have only one coach. Allowing the coach to instruct and guide the team is crucial. A positive parent/coach relationship will require the following promises:

As a parent of an athlete, I promise:

1. To emphasize that "team" must take precedence over the individual.
2. To make sure my children know that win or lose, I love them, appreciate their efforts and are not disappointed in them.
3. To try my best to be completely honest about my child's athletic ability, competitive attitude, sportsmanship and actual skill level.
4. To be helpful but don't coach them. i.e. A parent should not compete with the coach.
5. To teach them to enjoy the thrill of competition, to be "out there trying," to be working to improve their skills and attitudes.
6. To emphasize the importance of academics and understand the academic requirements necessary for participation in interscholastic athletic activities.
7. To not compare the skill, courage or attitude of my child with other members of the team.
8. To make every effort to communicate honestly, openly and objectively with coaches ***within the guidelines established in this handbook.***
9. To remember that children tend to exaggerate, both when praised and criticized.
10. To remember that most student athletes do not receive athletic scholarships. Their future as an active, contributing citizen is determined by their ***academic*** abilities, not their high school athletic abilities.
11. To remember that a ticket to an interscholastic athletic event is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others or enter the playing area at anytime.

12. To encourage and support your student athlete's efforts to follow the team rules and athletic code. Remember that you sign a parent athletic pledge stating your support of the athletic code, its enforcement and penalties. This is a year-round responsibility and not limited to the athletic season.

SELECTING THE TEAM

While our ultimate goal is to promote the greatest athletic participation possible at all levels of Southington athletics, it may be necessary in some sports to "cut" from a squad. This may occur due to any number of reasons, but usually the nature and limitations specific to some sports.

Every coach has the ultimate responsibility and authority for selecting his/her team. The criteria for selecting the team are developed by the coach.

It is also important to remember that there are no guarantees. Players from the previous year's team, for example, do not automatically make the upcoming team, nor does being a senior ensure that an athlete will make the squad.

Both parents and prospective team members should expect that every candidate is treated fairly and given every opportunity and consideration. Coaches will be sensitive to feelings of disappointment, will handle the task as positively as possible, and will be available to answer athletes' questions.

While we understand that being cut is disappointing for many athletes and even for their parents, the possibility of not making a team should be understood at all levels of competition. Anyone cut from a team is welcome to try out again next season or try another sport. When parents and athletes understand and support the coach's decision, this difficult process becomes a less painful experience for all.

PROCEDURES RELATIVE TO TEAM CUTS

When the Board of Education sets policy for the high school and middle school athletic program, the Principal and Athletic Director is responsible for the administration of the school's athletic programs. The following procedures have been developed to allow for the best program for all students:

1. The number of participants in some athletic programs is limited. This requires that some prospective participants be cut from the squad, based upon determination of the head coach and his/her staff. The head coach makes the final decision in such cases. Players will be kept on teams based on playing ability, not grade level or program loyalty. The sport and the number of coaches, the number of levels, and the facilities available may determine team size.
2. Objective ratings must be done by coaches on players who are trying out for a team. Explanation of criteria will take place at a pre-season player/parent meeting.
3. Head coaches must make difficult decisions regarding which athletes play when and how much. We ask parents and students to respect the decisions of the head coach. It would be virtually impossible for an athletic program to function if a coach were unable to make decisions regarding the amount of playing time and which athletes play during the contests. Any student and/or student's parent may discuss these decisions with the coach following appropriate protocol. If the student and/or student's parents are not satisfied at that time, they may then contact the Athletic Director. The Athletic Director, at his/her discretion, discusses the concern with the coach, student or the student's parents, but in no case shall the Athletic Director or Administration have the authority to compel the coach to alter these discretionary decisions.
4. Freshmen are permitted to participate at the varsity level. It is strongly recommended by the Administration and Athletic Department that a meeting takes place with the player, coach, and parent to explain expectations, ramifications, and impact of such a decision.

EXPRESSING PARENTAL CONCERNS

When expressing an occasional concern with a coach, parents are asked to refer to and use the following guidelines:

1. Always follow the proper athletic chain of command.
2. **Never approach a coach at practice nor before or immediately after a contest.** Neither is the proper time nor place for a discussion concerning your child or the team.
3. Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches include the treatment of your child mentally and physically, ways to help your child improve, and concerns about your child's behavior.
4. Inappropriate concerns to discuss with coaches include playing time, team strategy, play calling, and other student-athletes.

5. **Call the school the following day and make an appointment which is convenient for both you and the coach to meet.** When a parent/coach meeting is necessary, the athlete involved should be present.
6. Raise your concerns in a calm and civil manner. Yelling, being rude or using foul language is totally unacceptable and will bring an immediate end to the meeting.
7. Once you have stated your question or concern, listen to the explanation. Often a parent may be blinded by emotion and this overrides logic and reason. Listening receptively may really help you to understand any explanation which is given.

ATHLETIC CHAIN OF COMMAND

Within the Southington Local Schools, the following chain of command is in effect:

HEAD COACH > ATHLETIC DIRECTOR > PRINCIPAL

If there are any questions or concerns involving some aspect of our athletic program, the athlete should first contact the appropriate coach. If there is no resolution, he/she would then go to the head coach, etc.

CO-PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

All students are encouraged to participate in as many extra-curricular activities as they desire. Some may wish to participate in sports simultaneously within a single season. While such situations will automatically create conflicts, every effort, on the part of the student athlete and his/her coaches, will be made to accommodate the student's wishes. Below are suggested guidelines to follow:

- The student will inform coaches of his/her main sport and secondary sport prior to the start of the season in question.

- The student and his/her coaches will work out a plan regarding practices/contests to accommodate the requirements of co-participation. As a part of said plan, the student shall declare which sport shall be primary when conflicts arise regarding actual contests. All participants in the formulation of the **Co-Participation Plan** will sign said plan and a copy will be sent to the student's parent(s) guardian(s).
- Any conflicts arising from the **Co-Participation Plan** will be brought to the attention of the Athletic Director or High School Administrator who will act as a mediator.
- When conflicts arise as a result of membership/participation in non-athletic extracurricular activities, students are required to inform their coaches in advance.

TRAVEL

1. All student-athletes must travel to and from all scheduled scrimmages and contests in transportation provided by the athletic department unless the parent(s) make previous written arrangements for an exceptional situation with the head coach.
2. Student-athletes must adhere to all transportation guidelines as established by the Board of Education.
3. A student-athlete who misses a scheduled bus trip to an out-of-town scrimmage or contest will not be permitted to participate in said contest unless there are extenuating circumstances.
4. Student-athletes must adhere to all behavioral expectations set forth in the Student Handbook.

PRE-SEASON PARENT / ATHLETE MEETINGS

There will be a **state mandated** parent/athlete meeting prior to each athletic season. **Every attempt should be made to attend by both parents and athletes.**

During such meetings, the following will be addressed by our coaches:

1. Southington Athletic Handbook
2. Coaches rules that have been pre approved by the administration and included with the Athletic Handbook
3. The criteria by which teams may be selected
4. The forms which must be completed in order for students to participate

5. Practice and contest schedules
6. Drug Testing
7. Optional Student Insurance
8. Questions from parents

ANTI-BULLYING/HARASSMENT

The Southington Local School District strives to provide a safe, secure, and respectful learning environment for all students in school buildings, on school grounds and school buses, and at school-sponsored activities. Bullying has a harmful social, physical, psychological and academic impact on bullies, victims, and bystanders. The school district consistently and vigorously addresses bullying so that there is no disruption to the learning environment and learning process.

Bullying in Ohio Schools is defined in Ohio law (Ohio Revised Code 3313.666) as any intentional written, verbal, graphic, or physical act that a student or group of students exhibits toward another particular student more than once, and that the behavior both: causes mental or physical harm to the other student; and is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student. Cyberbullying is the above prohibited behavior perpetuated with computers, cellular phones, Internet websites, and/or any other electronic device.

Bullying behavior can be:

- Physical (e.g. assault, hitting or punching, kicking, theft, threatening behavior)
- Verbal (e.g. threatening or intimidating language, teasing, name calling, racist remarks)
- Indirect (e.g. spreading cruel rumors, intimidation through gestures, social exclusion, sending insulting messages or pictures by mobile phone or using the Internet-also known as cyberbullying)

Any acts of bullying, as defined above, should be reported immediately to school administration.

While the majority of these issues may occur “on school property”, or “at school events”, it should be noted that discipline involving bullying may also include where bullying originates as well as where it is communicated. If the act of bullying occurs off school property/during

non-school hours, it may still result in school/athletic discipline if there is a disruption in the learning environment in the school setting.

Bullying behavior is prohibited in all schools, buildings, property and educational environments, including any property or vehicle owned, leased, or used by the school district. Educational environments, including, but not limited to, every activity under school supervision. The Southington Local School District must be a safe haven where all students feel physically and emotionally safe and secure at all times. Parents can assist the school district and help protect their children by joining in this effort.

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR RESPECTIVE COACH TO REPORT ANY ACTS OF BULLYING.

ANTI-HAZING

Hazing is an act that places a student or athlete in an embarrassing, demeaning, or humiliating situation as a rite of passage or initiation to a team. The school district and athletic department forbids the practice of hazing by fellow athletes or coaches. Athletes are never required to pass or perform any initiation or ritual to become part of or retain membership on an athletic team.

TECHNOLOGY/SOCIAL MEDIA

Cell phones may not be used while on a team bench, team sideline, during a team meeting, or during an athletic contest or practice unless instructed to do so by a coach, athletic trainer, etc. For privacy reasons, cell phones are not permitted to be used in the locker room at any time. The use of cell phones may be further restricted during team travel or at away contests as part of team rules or policies.

Athletes should remember any image, photo, or video appearing on the Internet or posted on social media sites may be used to trigger co-curricular code violation. There may be no way to

establish timeframe for when or where the image was taken. Therefore, an athlete assumes the responsibility for placing himself/herself in a compromising situation.

CONTRACT

I agree to assume responsibility for all equipment issued to me and to confine the use of that equipment to practice and games.

I will further agree to pay for any and all equipment which I do not return at the end of the season.

I agree to abide by all the rules and regulations set forth in the Chalker Jr/Sr High School rules and this athletic contract.

(Athlete's Signature)

(Date)

I, as a parent/guardian of the above athlete, have read and understand the policies and rules as set forth in the contract for athletic participation in Chalker Jr/Sr High School.

I understand my son/daughter cannot participate in any sport until this contract is signed and fulfilled.

(Signature of parent/guardian)

(Date)

SOUTHINGTON ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION WAIVER, CONSENT AND RELEASE FORM

The undersigned in my capacity as parent and legal guardian of

_____, hereby consent to his/her participation in
(Child's Name)

_____, sponsored by the Southington Local School District.

Furthermore, I hereby acknowledge that there are inherent risks associated and accompanied with the above stated activity and that the child named above may be injured as a result of an accident arising out of participation in the named activity. In consideration for permitting the individual named above to participate in the activity named above, the undersigned releases and holds harmless Southington Local School District and/or its employees, teachers, coaches, administrators, et al., from any and all liability including, but not limited to liability for injuries or damages sustained by the individual.

(Print)

(Parent's Signature)

(Date)