

**SMYRNA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ATHLETE & FAMILY  
CODE OF CONDUCT**



**Smyrna Middle School**

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# GENERAL INFORMATION

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## Section 1: Education Based Athletics

The Smyrna School District (SSD) Athletic Programs provide educational opportunities for student-athletes to grow and develop as individuals. These programs teach student-athletes life skills through sports.

**Mission:** to train, educate and motivate student-athletes to reach their highest potential in athletic competition and in life.

The SSD Athletic Programs provide educational opportunities for student-athletes to grow and develop through five core values.

- **Compassion:** Coaches and athletes develop the ability to connect the interests and needs of the student-athlete, faculty, and community.
- **Integrity:** Coaches and athletes uphold the highest ethical standards and are accountable for their actions.
- **Perseverance:** Being able to manage the physical, mental, and emotional growth required to participate in athletics and in life.
- **Respect:** Positively represent the school community and team by honoring the game, officials, opponents, and facilities.
- **Responsibility:** While representing Smyrna School District athletes and coaches will abide by all rules and regulations established by SSD and DIAA.

## Section 2: Sportsmanship Statement

The Smyrna School District Athletic Programs are committed to good sportsmanship. The following definition and fundamentals of sportsmanship are provided by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

*“Good sportsmanship is viewed as a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior, and integrity. In perception and practice, sportsmanship is defined as those qualities which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. The ideals of sportsmanship apply equally to all activity disciplines. Individuals, regardless of their role in activities, are expected to be aware of their influence on the behavior of others and model good sportsmanship.”*

### **Smyrna School District Sportsmanship Board Policy**

The Smyrna School District and athletic department will promote good sportsmanship through the use of the district core values: Compassion, Integrity, Perseverance, Respect, and Responsibility. Good sportsmanship will be displayed by all parties involved in athletics, whether it is an athlete, coach, parent, spectator, or official. Involvement in the athletic program within the Smyrna School District is in fact an extension of the classroom and is truly co-curricular and is therefore an avenue for our coaches and parents to be teachers and role models for our young athletes in the core values of the Smyrna School District. The district strives to uphold the expectations outlined in our coach’s handbook, athlete code of conduct, and our parent communication program, as well as the regulations set forth by the National Federation of High School Sports and the Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association.

The Smyrna School District Athletic Program will emphasize the importance of Compassion, Integrity, Perseverance, Respect, and Responsibility as it relates to the athletes, contests, fans, and the entire Smyrna Community.

### Section 3: Contacts

High School Athletic Department Contact List		
Supervisor of Athletics	Paul Damask	paul.damask@smyrna.k12.de.us
Athletic Director	Bill Schultz	william.schultz@smyrna.k12.de.us
Administrative Assistant	Robyn Smith	robyn.smith@smyrna.k12.de.us
Athletic Trainer	Amie Campanicki	amie.campanicki@smyrna.k12.de.us

Middle School Athletic Department Contact List		
Supervisor of Athletics	Martez Stevens	martez.stevens@smyrna.k12.de.us
Athletic Director	Matt Bivins	matthew.bivins@smyrna.k12.de.us
Athletic Trainer	Eddie Kaiser	edward.kaiser@smyrna.k12.de.us

# STUDENT-ATHLETE POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

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*Participation in school sponsored athletics is a privilege. Participants are students first.*

## Section 1: Attendance Policy

Student-athletes are required to be in school **from the morning bell to the end bell** to participate in practice or contest that day. The only exceptions are:

1. Office excused absences such as doctor's appointments, court appearances and confirmed sickness with written documentation.
2. If a student-athlete has an excused early dismissal/late arrival, they must be in attendance for a minimum of ½ their scheduled day to participate in practice or contest. For example, late excused arrivals must be in school by 11:30 AM on a regularly scheduled school day.

Student-Athletes are **NOT** permitted to participate in practice or contest if:

1. A student-athlete is unexcused absence from school on the day(s) of practice or contest.
2. Any student-athlete that is suspended, whether in-school (SBIP, ISS) or out-of-school (OSS), on the day(s) of practice or contest. See Discipline.

## Section 2: Athletic Eligibility Policy

Please refer to the Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association (DIAA) Handbook for updated eligibility guidelines.

*DIAA Reg 1090 2.6.2 In order to be eligible for participation in interscholastic athletic contests and scrimmages, a student must pursue a regular course of study or its equivalent as approved by the local governing body and must be passing at least five credits. Two of those credits must be in the areas of English, Mathematics, Science, World Language, or Social Studies. However, in the case of a student in the twelfth grade, the student must be passing all courses necessary for graduation from high school in order to be eligible for participation. A course necessary for graduation shall be any course, whether taken during or outside the regular school day, that satisfies an unmet graduation requirement.*

***A student-athlete becomes eligible/ineligible on the day report cards are issued. A student-athlete that becomes eligible is required to practice seven calendar days after report cards are issued before competing in an athletic contest.***

***Final course grade may be used to determine eligibility at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> marking periods.***

## Section 3: Tobacco/Vaping – Alcohol – Drug Policy

The following policy is in effect seven days a week, 24 hours a day while a student-athlete is on an athletic team in the Smyrna School District during the school year.

**Tobacco & Vaping:** A student-athlete found using and/or in possession of tobacco products (including e-cigarettes/vapor pens) while on school property or as a representative of Smyrna Athletics will be disciplined in accordance with the Smyrna School District Student Code of Conduct. The resulting consequences may result in the student-athlete missing practice(s) and/or game(s). It is the coaches' and/or administrations' discretion on whether a student-athlete misses more time or is removed from the team.

Any subsequent offenses in another sport season of that school year will result in administrative action, and a possible 12-month ban on athletic participation in the Smyrna School District.

**Drug and Alcohol Use/Influence Abuse:** A student-athlete found using and/or in possession, uses or is under the influence of alcohol, a drug, drug paraphernalia, or any substance or paraphernalia consistent with the definitions of these substances or paraphernalia while on school property or as a representative of Smyrna Athletics will be disciplined in accordance with the Smyrna School District Student Code of Conduct. Disciplinary action will result in the student-athlete missing practice(s) and/or game(s). It is the coaches' and/or administrations' discretion on whether a student-athlete misses more time or is removed from the team.

Any subsequent offenses of the Drug Use/Influence Policy in another sport season of that school year will result in administrative action, and a possible 12-month ban on athletic participation in the Smyrna School District.

#### **Section 4: Bullying/Hazing Policy:**

The Smyrna School District Athletic Program will not tolerate or condone any type of team, or individual, initiation that could be considered intimidation, bullying or hazing. Any infraction of this policy will result in disciplinary action. The administration, in conjunction with the Athletic Director and coach, will review such issues utilizing proper due process and appropriate action will be administered.

#### **Section 5: Communication Policy**

To keep communication clear and safe, coaches, student-athletes, and families will never message individually outside of school email. One-on-one messaging through personal apps or text is prohibited. Any communication apps used for team updates (schedules, changes, reminders, etc.) will send messages in a group format.

#### **Section 6: Discipline Policy**

Behavior that is detrimental to the players, team, school, and/or community will be disciplined by the coach, athletic director, and/or administration. This includes violations of the Smyrna School District Student Code of Conduct. Disciplinary actions may include, but are not limited to, loss of playing time and/or suspension or dismissal from the team.

- Any student-athlete that is suspended, whether in school (SBIP, ISS) or out-of-school (OSS), on the day(s) of practice or contest are **NOT** permitted to participate.
- Any out-of-school suspension (OSS) is subject to review, in which removal from a sports team may occur at the discretion of administration and the Athletic Director. Fighting, drugs/alcohol, and other similar offenses (in or outside of school) carry a ZERO tolerance policy.

## Section 7: Sportsmanship/Ejections

DIAA Regulation 1023.2.3.2.1 states “A player or coach disqualified before, during, or after a contest for an unsportsmanlike act shall be suspended from the next complete (a winner is determined, or a tie is declared) contest at that level of competition and all other complete or suspended contests in the interim at any level of competition in addition to any other penalties which DIAA may impose.”

### Unsportsmanlike Disqualifications/Ejections (Not a Physical Altercation):

Ejection	Consequence
1 <sup>st</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Suspended for next scheduled contest.</li><li>• Meeting with Athletic Director</li><li>• Must complete “Sportsmanship” course on NFHS and submit a certificate of completion to AD before being allowed to compete.</li></ul>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ineligible for next 2 scheduled contests.</li><li>• Meeting with Administration.</li><li>• May result in a DIAA Sportsmanship Committee meeting.</li></ul>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Suspended from the remainder of the season.</li><li>• Meeting with Administration</li><li>• DIAA Sportsmanship Committee meeting.</li></ul>

### Unsportsmanlike Disqualifications/Ejections (Physical Altercation):

Ejection	Consequence
1 <sup>st</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Suspended for next 2 scheduled contests.</li><li>• Meeting with Administration.</li><li>• Must complete “Sportsmanship” course on NFHS and submit a certificate of completion to AD before being allowed to compete.</li></ul>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Suspended from the remainder of the season.</li><li>• Meeting with Administration.</li><li>• May result in a DIAA Sportsmanship Committee meeting.</li></ul>

### Clarifications:

- A physical altercation is any incident that involves fighting, instigation, or leaving the bench to engage in a fight.
- A suspended player shall not be present during any contest while serving the suspension. The suspended player shall not be within sight or sound of any athletic contest during the suspension.
- In the event that a suspension occurs during the final game of the season, the player is suspended during the next available contest whether that is during the next regular season contest or postseason contest; whichever comes first.
- Players that cannot fulfill their suspension during the same season/sport shall be suspended for the same length of time in their next sport.

## Section 8: Student-Athlete requirements

- **Completed DIAA Physical:** Must be completed on or after April 1st of the previous school year to try out for or begin practices.
- **Insurance Waiver:** Must be on file with the athletic department if the student-athlete does not have insurance.
- **Smyrna School District Student-Athlete Code of Conduct:** Must be completed and turned in once a student-athlete makes a team.
- **Team Policies and Procedures:** Must be completed and turned into coach prior to the first contest.

## Section 9: Equipment/Uniforms

- Student-Athletes are responsible for any equipment, uniforms, or property provided by the Smyrna School District.
- All supplied equipment, uniforms, etc. that are property of the Smyrna School District must be returned at the end of the season.
- Student-athletes that have not returned Smyrna School District property will be disciplined by:
  1. Student-Athlete will be placed on the obligation list.
  2. Student-Athlete will not be permitted to play another sport.
  3. Student-Athlete will not be issued any more equipment, uniforms, etc.

## Section 10: Travel

Student-Athletes are expected to travel to and from all contests with the team. Any exceptions must be communicated in writing with the coach **prior** to the day of the contest.



# *Smyrna Middle School*

**Athletic Department  
700 Duck Creek Parkway  
Smyrna, DE 19977  
(302) 653-8584 Phone and Fax**

## **Smyrna School District Athletic Code of Conduct Acknowledgement**

I \_\_\_\_\_ have received a copy of the Smyrna School District  
(Student-Athlete's Name)  
Athletic Code of Conduct.

Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege and voluntary within the Smyrna School District. I have read, understand, and have agreed to abide by each, and every policy and guideline detailed in the Smyrna School District Athletic Code of Conduct.

Sport: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Athlete's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Athlete's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Family Policy

- Family members are asked to follow the 24-hour rule before contacting a coach.
- Harassing players, coaches, and/or officials will not be tolerated.
- Proper chain of command is requested:
  1. Student-athlete to Coach
  2. Family to Coach
  3. Family to Athletic Director
  4. Family to Associate Principal
  5. Family to Principal
  6. Family to Central Office Administration.
- Families that violate the rules above may be subject to disciplinary action according to the Smyrna School District's Civility Policy.

My signature below indicates that I have read, understand, and will adhere to all the policies and procedures as established by the Smyrna School District.

I give my consent for the above-named student-athlete to receive notification from coaches to include communication via email or communication app relating to the athletic activity that they participate in within the Smyrna School District.

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_