ATHLETIC HANDBOOK – CODE OF CONDUCT

INTRODUCTION

This Appendix describes the rules, policies, procedures, and framework within which the Saint George's School Athletic Department functions. The prospective student-athlete and their parent / guardian should carefully review the contents. Upon reviewing the contents, the student and their parent should sign the attached contract and submit it to the coach prior to the first contest. This will be completed in Final Forms.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM

In traditional years, the Athletic Department of Saint George's School consists of the following sports or activities. The offerings will follow local and state guidelines.

- Fall Sports – US/MS/LS Cross Country, US Soccer, and US/MS Volleyball (Girls)
- Winter Sports – US/MS/5th Basketball
- Spring Sports – US/MS Track & Field, US Tennis, US Golf

ATHLETIC INFORMATION AND FORMS

Available in Final Forms at https://stgeorges-wa.finalforms.com/

OUR ATHLETICS PHILOSOPHY

Interscholastic sports are one of a number of programs and experiences available at the middle and high school level to assist students in their personal growth and development. Among other attributes, athletics can assist in promoting the importance of teamwork and team unity; the importance of hard work, loyalty, and dedication to tasks; the importance of establishing goals and working toward their achievement; and the development of principles relating to sportsmanship and fair play. Winning and losing becomes a secondary issue when compared to the manner in which athletes conduct themselves on the field, exhibiting dignity and grace in the face of adversity. Winning is secondary as well when compared to the extent of the effort put forth by the individual in whatever endeavor they undertake. All athletes do not perform at the same level, but maximum effort, commitment, and a winning attitude are requisite expectations for any and all team members.

SPORTSMANSHIP AND CITIZENSHIP

Dragon athletes and team members will be expected to display appropriate conduct and sportsmanship at all times throughout the season, both on and off the field/court. Specific

violations might include, though are not limited to, fighting, theft, use of improper language, and misuse of school facilities and equipment. The conduct of individual athletes reflects on the entire team, the Athletic Department, and the school, and certainly contributes to the image and success of all of the above. Accordingly, exemplary behavior is a requisite for continued participation on all Saint George's athletic teams.

ELIGIBILITY

See Secondary Extra/Co-Curricular Academic Policy

SMOKING, VAPING, ALCOHOL, & SUBSTANCE USE/ABUSE

The use or possession of alcohol, e-cigarettes, vaping, tobacco, or drugs will not be tolerated. At the least, the use of either substance adversely affects the performance of an individual, which in turn impacts upon the success, unity, morale, and performance of the team. The safety of individual team members can be compromised in the process. Even further, possession/abuse of alcohol, e-cigarettes, tobacco, or drugs is inconsistent with the philosophy of athletics at Saint George's School, which features dedication, loyalty, personal development, and dignified conduct among its goals. The abuse/possession of alcohol or drugs by a team member will automatically result in disciplinary measures, which might include criminal charges, suspension from school or expulsion from the team.

- 1st Offense – Two-week suspension from contests beginning with the next possible contest.
- 2nd Offense – One calendar year suspension from contests.
- 3rd Offense – Removal from athletics for remainder of career.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

- Unexcused absences or chronic tardiness to class, study hall, school sponsored events that occur during the school day, or team practice may be sufficient reason for declaring a student ineligible at any time. The coach, in consultation with the athletic director and head of the division will determine the date and time of ineligibility.
- Any unexcused absence during the school day will result in the loss of eligibility from all practices or events occurring that day.
- In order to participate in any athletic event or practice, athletes are expected to be in at least half of their scheduled classes the day of the event provided the absences are excused. The Head of the division or the Athletic Director may excuse an athlete for scheduled appointments, such as driver's test, court appearance, medical

appointments, or for unforeseen emergencies. A student who has any absence other than those specified may not practice or compete on that date.

LATE AND/OR MISSING PRACTICE

Prompt and regular attendance at practice sessions is necessary for the safety and conditioning of the student as well as for the benefit of the team. Team members should notify their coach prior to any practice that they must miss and should offer an adequate explanation for the absence. Chronic tardiness to practice or unexcused absences will be dealt with by the coach, and unless the coach specifies otherwise, the following measures will be taken:

- 1st offense - conference between coach and team member where coach determines appropriate action to make up for lost practice session
- 2nd offense - suspension from next practice session or contest
- 3rd offense - dismissal from team

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

Prior to a student's participating in any tryout, practice, or contest with a team, they must supply the school with the following items:

- Current (good for exactly two calendar years) medical evaluation form properly completed by a physician/nurse practitioner.
- Written acknowledgment of insurance coverage from their parents/guardians which also serves as permission to participate in an athletic activity.
- Athletic Handbook - Code of Conduct signed by the student/athlete and their parent/guardian.
- Concussion/Sudden Cardiac Arrest forms signed by the student/athlete and their parent/guardian.

TRANSPORTATION

Most teams are transported to contests by Saint George's school buses, while coaches may drive others. All athletes on teams that take buses are expected to return to school on the bus, unless the coach determines that the student can return with his/her parents. Students may not leave with anyone other than their parents unless the Athletic Director has written notification twenty-four hours prior to taking the trip. Similarly, students who are driven to contests must have the approval of their coaches if alternative means of return travel are arranged. At all times, the coaches reserve the final decision on how players can return from away events.