

SCIO CENTRAL SCHOOL

ATHLETIC RULES & REGULATIONS

Rules and Regulations for Participation in Athletics

The Athletic Program at Scio Central is designed to provide our students with desirable educational experiences through athletics and other participation outside the classroom. All students are encouraged to take part in these formal, supervised programs and activities.

Because participation in athletics involves parental permission, extra physical peril, state imposed regulations on training and competing, and constant scrutiny by the public, Scio Central has established a system of specific rules, procedures, and penalties for those students who participate in interscholastic athletics.

1. **PRESEASON MEETING:** All potential athletes and one parent or guardian must attend a preseason meeting. All rules and regulations pertaining to the Athletic Program will be explained at this meeting. All Athletic Participation Agreement forms must be signed and returned to the Athletic Director at this meeting. If there is no form on file for a child, he/she will not be permitted to practice until a parent or guardian fulfills this obligation.
2. **ELIGIBILITY:** No girl or boy may participate in an interscholastic sport activity (including tryouts and practices):
 - a. Until an ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT form has been filed with the athletic director,
 - b. Until the student receives a physical examination from the school physician,
 - c. Without abiding by all regulations set forth in the N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. handbook,
 - d. Following any injury that requires a physician's care until a doctor's release form is presented to the school nurse, coach, and athletic director,
 - e. Until uniforms and/or equipment from previous participation are returned or agreement made to pay for such equipment with five (5) days following completion of a sport.
3. **TEAM MEMBERSHIP:** Team members will attend all practices and athletic contest unless excused by the coach. Team members will also follow and obey any additional rules set by the coach of that sport.
4. **APPEARANCE:** All participants are to act like ladies and gentlemen and dress neatly and cleanly when representing Scio Central School. The coach will establish the standard expected and will notify the students at the beginning of the season.

5. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** All participants should adhere to characteristics of good sportsmanship in reference to teammates, opponents, officials, and spectators. Athletes who are ejected from games may be required to miss additional games (depending on the severity of the rule infraction).

6. **BEHAVIOR:** All participants in athletics are expected to exercise appropriate behavior in school, in the community and at all events. Participants must refrain from profane and abusive language and/or gestures at all times.
 - a. **In School:** Participants are expected to complete all assignments and to be courteous and considerate to teachers and other students.
PARTICIPANTS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED BACK INTO THE MAIN PART OF THE BUILDING AFTER PRACTICES OR GAMES.
Therefore, all books and personal belongings that are needed that evening should be taken immediately after school to the gym and locker room lockers. Participants must display appropriate behavior in regard to the following: horseplay, open affection, language, fighting and verbal assaults on others.
 - b. **Respect:** Participants will show and give respect at all times to their teachers, classmates, all school personnel, players, coaches, opponents, officials, spectators, and other participating students.
 - c. All participants are role models in the community and are expected to behave accordingly.
 - d. Misbehavior will result in punishment before or after school at the discretion of the coach, athletic director and/or principal.

7. **PARTICIPATION:** Students will be permitted to participate in only one interscholastic sport per season. Those who quit a team after two weeks of the first practice are ineligible to join another team during that same season of participation.

8. **ATTENDANCE ELIGIBILITY:** All participants in grades 7-12 must be in their homeroom by 7:55am.
 - a. Illegal absences will prohibit a student from participation.
 - b. Excused absences (doctor's appointment, college visit, etc.), will be left to the discretion of the administration. If possible, notify the athletic director or principal before the day of the excused absence. Any unexcused or illegal absences, from any classes, will prohibit a student from participation in athletic contests. A note from the appointment should be turned into the office.
 - c. From the first day of practice until the last contest, the third tardy and any others after that will result in that participant being prohibited from attendance and participation on those days.
 - d. Students who arrive after 8:45am will not be able to practice or play that day.
 - e. Participants are expected to be in school the day following an athletic contest. The second time a student misses school after a game in the same season, it will result in a one game suspension.

9. TRANSPORTATION: All participants will ride to and from all athletic contests in transportation provided by the school district. If a parent wishes to have their child ride home with them after an away contest, they must sign a release form at the game site.
10. LEAVING A SQUAD:
 - a. If a student quits a team, he/she will have 48 hours (not including the weekends) to personally ask the coach for reinstatement. Coaches will act on these matters as they see fit. They may reinstate the student or drop him/her from the team. If a student quits a team after the tryout period (first two weeks of the season), the student will be suspended from participation in the first 20% of the contest played in the next season they participate in.
 - b. If a student quits a team because of extenuating circumstances, participation during the next season will be at the discretion of the Athletic Director and/or Principal.
 - c. A student that is dismissed from a team by a coach may be subject to the same penalties above.
11. SCHOOL SUSPENSION: Students who are subject to an In-school Suspension or an Out-of-School Suspension cannot practice, participate, or attend any game, activity or event during the time of suspension. The suspension ends midnight of the final day of suspension. Friday suspensions will carry through the weekend.
12. PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES: Student/athletes are expected to participate in Physical Education classes. Failure to do so forfeits their participation in practice and/or games for that day.
13. HAZING: Hazing in any form, including initiation, which is degrading, is strictly forbidden by NYS Law. No student shall conspire to engage in hazing, participate in hazing or commit any act that causes or is likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, personal degradation or disgrace, resulting in physical or mental harm to any fellow student or other person. It is understood that hazing of any kind is not allowed on this campus or in athletics. It is further understood that we have a duty to report and acts of hazing we see or know of to a coach or administrator. Participation in or failure to report any hazing will result in a disciplinary review and possible suspension and dismissal from the athletic program.

14. AWARDS:

- a. Any infraction that results in any type of suspension (red card, disqualification, out of school suspension) during the season will disqualify a student from consideration of post-season awards and all-star selection in that season.
- b. Ralph Root Award Requirements: This award is the most prestigious award given to a senior boy and girl:
 - i. The student must be a 3 sport athlete from 9th thru 12th grade.
 - ii. The student must display enthusiasm and dedication to the athletic program throughout their high school career.
 - iii. The student must display the utmost respect to all involved.
- c. Three Sport Athlete Plaque: All students who have successfully completed 3 sports for all their 9th thru 12th grades will receive this plaque.

15. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY POLICY: It is the responsibility of each student/athlete to be working in the classroom and passing all subjects. Every Monday the failure list will be generated by the Student Services Office.

- a. If a student is failing (grade below 65), they will be considered “ineligible.”
 - i. The student will attend study center Monday thru Friday from 3:00-3:45. The study center monitor will give the student a slip saying that they attended study center that day, which the student will give to their coach so they can participate in practice that day.
 - ii. Students are required to attend all games and sit with the team, but not in uniform.
 - iii. A letter will be sent home to the parents informing them of the student’s grade.
 - iv. Students can become “eligible” the following Monday if they are passing all of their classes.
- b. If a student fails the same subject for two consecutive weeks, he/she will become ineligible for an additional week. If a student is still failing the same class at the third consecutive evaluation period, they will be dismissed from the team for the remainder of the season. The exception to this rule is if a student is failing ONLY 1 subject with a grade between 60-64 AND the teacher verifies that the student is doing everything possible to raise the grade, then and only then can the PRINCIPAL keep the student on the team as an ineligible player.

***** **NOTE:** An Administrator, in conference with a teacher, may place/remove a student on/from academic ineligibility at any time if they feel the student’s performance and/or effort between evaluation periods decreases/increases to an unacceptable/acceptable level.

16. ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S COMMITTEE:

This committee meets as needed to discuss changes to the rules and regulations for participation in athletics. The Athletic Director's Committee consists of the following:

- a. Athletic Director
- b. Principal
- c. Board of Education Athletic Liaison
- d. Two coaches
- e. Teacher
- f. Two community members
- g. Two students

17. SUBSTANCE POSSESSION/USE: Significant findings in health research have confirmed the undesirability of using tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, and other controlled substances. Unfortunately, education and reasoning alone are not always sufficient to deter youngsters from the use of these substances. Therefore, the Athletic Director, and/or Principal must respond to its participants who fail to abstain.

Reports of a violation coming from: a district employee, an adult acting as a chaperone, a law enforcement officer or agency, or a parent/legal guardian of a student involved in an alleged violation, will be investigated.

FIRST VIOLATION: A first offense involving possession of documented use of tobacco, alcohol, marijuana or other controlled substances during any season of participation will result in an initial investigation and the accused student meeting with the Athletic Director and/or Principal. If the student is found to be guilty, the following penalties will be imposed: (1) the student will be suspended for four games during that season. During this time, the student will be required to attend and participate in all practices and sit with the team at games, (2) the student will be required to consult with the Guidance Counselor and/or School Psychologist for an assessment, and the student will receive appropriate prevention education or counseling before being eligible to participate in any activity.

NOTE: For every practice missed during suspension, the student will be suspended one additional game for each practice missed. If the student misses an entire week of practice, they will automatically be suspended for the remainder of the season. The four game suspension will carry over into the next season that the student participates in if the suspension falls at the end of the season. (Example: if the student is suspended with only two games left in soccer, the four game suspension will carry over into basketball season and the student will be suspended for the first two basketball games). If the student admits to their guilt, there will be an informal meeting with the Athletic Director and/or Principal and parents. The above penalties will then be imposed.

SECOND VIOLATION: Serious documented accusations of a second substance possession/use offense by the same student during the same season or any other season, from 7th grade until graduation, will result in the accused student meeting again with the Athletic Director and/or Principal. If the student is found guilty, a suspension from all sports for one calendar year plus one season will be imposed. (Example: If the student was found guilty for the second time during the winter season, they will not be allowed to participate in the spring, following fall and the following winter seasons).

Students attending parties where alcohol or drugs are being used will be suspended for a minimum of two contests, depending on the Athletic Director and/or Principal's recommendation.

18. APPEAL PROCESS: Any violation of these Rules and Regulations will be handled by the Athletic Director and/or Principal. Students have the right to appeal to the Board of Education (in writing and within five (5) school days) for review of the procedures, findings, and penalties imposed by the Athletic Director and/or Principal. If the appeal is granted, the Board will meet as soon as reasonably possible after filing such appeal to review the case and either confirm the Athletic Director's and/or Principal's decision or modify the same, as the Board of Education shall deem appropriate.
19. INSURANCE COVERAGE: The District's Student Accident policy has a \$100 deductible, and a \$25,000 Maximum Medical Benefit. This policy is supplemental to the student's own health insurance coverage, and is limited in the amount of coverage that is provided.