

ADLAI E. STEVENSON HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT RULES OF TRAINING AND CONDUCT

Stevenson High School's Athletic Department has as the purpose of its interscholastic athletic program these objectives: development and maintenance of individual health and vigor, perfection of playing skills, enjoyment of competitive play, development of sportsmanship and citizenship, and contribution to school and community spirit and morale.

Those students who participate in the interscholastic athletic program commit themselves to the following personal goals: a primary focus on academic development and attendance; the presentation of a positive image through dress and grooming; avoidance of any action which would bring embarrassment or disrepute to themselves or their team; development of desirable personal health standards (which includes the avoidance of tobacco of any kind, alcoholic beverages, and illegal drugs and substances); development of athletic skills; and the growth of a competitive philosophy which includes sportsmanship and a consistent awareness of school and community pride.

As a member of the Illinois High School Association, Stevenson adheres to and enforces a policy of academic eligibility. Briefly, this policy requires an athlete to attend a study table any week he or she is failing two or more classes or is not passing a minimum of four classes. In addition, an athlete must pass a minimum of four classes each semester to be eligible for the next semester. Details regarding the academic eligibility policy are reinforced each season by the coaching staff and are printed in the Student Guidebook.

The players on each team will be governed, at the minimum, by the following Athletic Department training rules. Each head coach may establish additional, individual sports rules for his/her team regarding curfew, attendance at practice sessions, personal conduct, and personal appearance. These rules must be distributed to team members at or before tryouts and must be on file in the Athletic Office.

These rules are in effect year-round, not just during seasons of participation or the school year.

I. CONDUCT/BEHAVIOR

A. INAPPROPRIATE CONDUCT

As stated in Paragraph Two, athletes are expected to maintain a level of conduct which does not discredit themselves or their teams. Violations of this standard would include, but are not limited to, Insubordination, Lying to School Officials, Cheating/Plagiarism, Gang-Related Activities, Inappropriate Physical Conduct, Vandalism, and Theft.

The minimum penalty for a first offense of behavior which is inappropriate for or unbecoming an athlete is a one contest suspension. The penalty for first offenses which are deemed severe and for succeeding infractions shall be determined by the Athletic Director, with the minimum penalty for a second offense being a one week (minimum one contest) suspension.

B. DANGEROUS/CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR

This would include, but is not limited to, Fighting, the Sounding of False Fire Alarms, the Possession of Dangerous Materials or Weapons, and any criminal activity.

The penalty for dangerous/criminal behavior will be assessed according to the guidelines listed in V. B.

C. HAZING

Athletes at Stevenson High School commit to supporting, encouraging, and mentoring each other in their efforts to achieve individual and team goals within the vision and mission of District 125. Engaging in or encouraging hazing is strictly prohibited. *Hazing occurs when any person knowingly requires the performance of any act by a student, or the acquiescence to any act performed by or upon a student, for the purpose of induction into, admission into, initiation into, affiliation with, or maintaining membership in, any group, organization, society, club or team, or any action or statement which harasses, threatens, humiliates, or intimidates another student.*

Athletes who engage in any form of hazing, or who do not report acts of hazing which they witness, will be subject to one or more of the following disciplinary actions: expulsion, suspension from school, loss of privilege; athletic suspension according to the guidelines listed in V.B.; referral to appropriate law enforcement agencies.

II. UNEXCUSED ABSENCE AT SCHEDULED ATHLETIC EVENTS

1. Absence from scheduled athletic events shall be prearranged and approved by the particular coach. Extenuating circumstances will be reviewed by the administration. The penalty for a first offense will be suspension from one athletic contest. For any succeeding offense during that season, the penalty will be expulsion from the team for the remainder of the season.

III. PARTICIPATION ON DAYS OF ABSENCE

An athlete's participation in athletic practices or contests on days of partial or complete absence from school must be cleared through the Athletic Director's office. A student-athlete will not be cleared to participate if he or she has an absence of more than one academic period for something other than a non-discretionary (i.e. court, wake, funeral) or school-related (i.e. field trip, performance) event. If the absence is due to a doctor's appointment or illness, the student-athlete is required to provide the Athletic Director with a note of clearance from the doctor before the end of the school day.

According to the School Code of Illinois, if a student is suspended from school, he/she may not be on the campus or attend any school function for any reason. This applies to athletic contests (home and away) and practices as well. Students are also not allowed to participate in any athletic practice session or contest on the day of an Alternate Day Assignment (in-school suspension).

A student may participate on Saturday following a Friday ADA, but many coaches have a team policy that would prohibit an athlete from doing this after missing practice on Friday. In regard to Saturday School, athletes who accept Saturday School assignments during the season must fulfill these obligations as scheduled. No participation of any kind (i.e. registration, weigh-ins, warm-ups, practice) is allowed on a Saturday prior to the completion of the Saturday School obligation. A student may participate in a contest or practice once all obligations have been fulfilled.

IV. TRAVEL

All athletes shall travel to and from athletic events by school-sponsored transportation. Exception: Athletes may return from athletic events with their parents with the permission of the particular coach. Written parental permission must be submitted to the coach prior to the event. Extenuating circumstances will be handled by the Athletic Director. Parents should contact the Athletic Director well in advance of the event if there are any questions.

V. *SMOKING, CHEWING TOBACCO, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, ILLEGAL DRUGS, CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, AND/OR PARAPHERNALIA.*

A. *The possession or use of tobacco of any kind, alcoholic beverages, and/or the possession or use of illegal drugs or controlled substances or paraphernalia shall not be permitted for any athlete. This prohibition includes the sale, purchase, possession, consumption, distribution, and/or participation in a plan to sell, purchase, possess, consume, and/or distribute alcoholic beverages and/or illegal drugs or controlled substances, and/or paraphernalia, and/or any of the above mentioned items.*

B. Penalty for Violations

1. First Offense

Suspension from interscholastic competition (at least one contest) for at least seven (7) succeeding calendar days from the sport in which the athlete participates and in which practice is being held. The athlete must attend all practice sessions and/or contests in street clothes during the suspension, unless school penalty includes in or out of school suspension. An athlete completing a suspension must finish the season in good standing in the sport in which the suspension is being administered. The suspension will be completed during an athlete's current season and will carry over, if necessary, to subsequent seasons. Suspensions for out-of-season violations will be applied based on a number of factors (i.e. length of suspension, season of violation, and past participation record).

2. Succeeding Infractions

The penalty for each succeeding infraction of this rule shall be determined by the Athletic Director, with a maximum suspension of up to 365 consecutive days from participation in athletic events.

VI. UNAUTHORIZED POSSESSION OF EQUIPMENT AND/OR UNIFORMS

Any athlete in possession of Stevenson High School athletic equipment or uniforms not issued to him/her or who does not return athletic equipment or uniforms in an appropriate time period after the conclusion of his/her season may face disciplinary action through the school and/or athletic codes. *Athletes who are not cleared at the end of a season will not be allowed to participate in another sport until their equipment obligations have been satisfied.*

VII. DUE PROCESS

A. A student athlete and/or his or her parents will be advised by the Athletic Director of the charges against him or her.

B. The student athlete and his or her parents will be given the opportunity to respond to the charges.

C. The student athlete and his or her parents will be advised by the Athletic Director of any disciplinary action taken as a result of the charges.

D. The student athlete and his or her parents will be provided the opportunity to appeal the disciplinary action to the Principal.