

STRATH HAVEN HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENT ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

STRATH HAVEN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

A beneficial athletic program is one that provides personal growth and development, both physically and mentally. Athletics gives students opportunities to learn to accept personal responsibilities for success and failure, and to recognize the limitations and strengths of both. It is hoped that the athletic program will provide activities that will make a positive impact on both the school and community.

This handbook is written to provide basic procedures and policies that apply to the Strath Haven athletic program. It is hoped that it will serve as a helpful guide to both students and parents.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Philosophy	2
Athletic participation	2
Academic Eligibility Requirements	3
Equipment	4
Hazing	4
Injuries	4
Insurance	4
Physical Examination	5
Parent/Coach Relationship	5
PIAA	6
Policy of Equal Rights & Opportunity	6
Social Media	7
Sportsmanship	7
Team Travel	7

Philosophy

The primary purpose of the athletic program in the Wallingford-Swarthmore School District is to promote the ethical, physical, social, emotional, and overall well-being of the student-athletes.

The athletic program is an important and integral part of the total school program and open to participation by all students regardless of individual differences.

We believe that participation in athletics provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences which assist students in their personal growth and development.

Athletic Participation

Selection of Interscholastic Participants

The Wallingford-Swarthmore School District reserves the right to limit the number of participants on interscholastic teams for reasons of supervision, safety, and the overall quality of the learning experience. Reasonable attempts will be made by the school community to find alternative athletic opportunities for any student athletes who are not selected for any interscholastic team. This may include participation in community athletic programs.

Participant Attendance and Team Rules

1. Each member of any school team is required to make a commitment to that sport during the season.
2. The school team should take precedence over non-school teams and activities. That commitment includes attendance at every practice and contest. A coach may, after evaluating the circumstances, dismiss, suspend, demote, or otherwise penalize an athlete for missing practices and games.
3. Students are expected to maintain a high standard of academic success. Students must remain academically eligible in accordance with PIAA and SHHS academic eligibility requirements.
4. Absence for more than one half of the academic school day will result in a loss of eligibility from extracurricular activities for that day.
5. Each team member is expected to observe and abide by team rules, as distributed by the head coach. Violation of team rules will result in counseling by the head coach and notification of parents in the first instance, suspension from the team for a period to be determined by the head coach in the second instance and dismissal for the remainder of the season in the third instance.

Academic Eligibility Requirements

Point System

A grade of F, D-, D, D+, or I (incomplete) = 1 point

2 or more points = Ineligibility

Determination of Eligibility

Student eligibility to participate in extra-curricular activities will be determined at the end of each grading period by the grades submitted from teachers at report time. Any student who accumulates 2 or more points becomes ineligible for all extracurricular activities for the entire successive marking period UNLESS he/she redeems himself/herself. The ineligibility period will begin on Monday following the completion of the grade reporting process (usually one week after the end of the marking period). REDEMPTION can only occur during the week after three complete weeks of ineligibility.

Students may also be declared ineligible at the conclusion of the school year based on final grades for the year for failure to pass at least half of their classes. Students declared ineligible for the following school year will be ineligible for the first three weeks of school in the fall. Note: Participation in summer practices is permitted for those deemed ineligible by either fourth marking period grades or final grades for the year; however, participation in games or scrimmages is NOT permitted. Full eligibility can be regained during the fourth week of school.

Regaining Eligibility

Students may regain eligibility at the end of each marking period by earning a satisfactory report card. Students may also regain their eligibility after three weeks of ineligibility. This one-week window is the ONLY time during the marking period of ineligibility when a student may regain eligibility. The ineligible student must obtain Return to Eligibility forms from a dean. He/she must circulate the cards to all of his/her teachers, who will enter the latest letter grade. If the new grade point totals are less than 2, the dean will verify the grades on the cards and recommend the student to return to eligibility. An administrator must approve the completed form and will notify the staff of the student's return to eligibility. No student will regain eligibility until all subjects are reported. A list of all ineligible students will be published and distributed to the entire staff. All coaches and activity sponsors will notify the student of his/her ineligibility. The Athletic Director and Director of Activities will monitor this process to make sure there are no ineligible students still participating.

PIAA Eligibility

In accordance with PIAA by-laws, grades will be checked on a weekly basis. Students must be passing at least ½ of their courses to participate. Any student deemed ineligible will sit out of competition and practice for a period of one week and shall not return until they are passing ½ of their classes. The minimum academic standards for eligibility mandated by the PIAA will take precedence over this design wherever its requirements for returning to eligibility are more stringent.

EQUIPMENT

Equipment and uniforms are issued to participants on a loan basis and are to be worn only when authorized by the coach. If any of the equipment is not returned at the conclusion of the season, an obligation will be issued to the participant for the fair cost of replacing it. Until the obligation is resolved, the participant will not be permitted to participate in any further athletic seasons.

HAZING

Hazing by any member of an athletic team will not be tolerated. Instances of hazing/initiation **whether voluntary or involuntary** are not legal in the state of Pennsylvania and are not acceptable in the Strath Haven community. Any instances of hazing/initiation may result in dismissal from the team.

INJURIES

Any student who participates in athletic competition must understand that a risk of injury always exists. The athletic staff at Strath Haven will do everything possible to minimize risks for student-athletes, both in practice and competition. Should an injury/illness occur while under the direct supervision of the coaching staff, the student-athlete must notify the coach and /or athletic trainer. Any injury/illness that occurs outside of school district supervision must also be reported to the coach or trainer. Premier Orthopedics provides a physician to oversee the treatment and care of our athletes.

INSURANCE

All athletes participating in interscholastic sports must be covered by health and/or accident insurance. The school does provide a secondary policy for all athletes which would pay for out of pocket expenses not covered by their primary carrier. Contact the athletic trainer for the appropriate forms.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

All student-athletes, prior to participation in any sport, must have a PIAA pre-participation physical examination (CIPPE). The completed forms are to be handed in to the coach prior to the first day of practice.

Under PIAA rules, a physical examination is good for one academic year. The high school provides one date for examinations by our team physician. Parents may take advantage of this or use a physician of their choice. To be cleared for participation, the physical examination must be dated after June 1st.

The CIPPE forms may be downloaded at www.piaa.org or www.wssd.org .

PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIP

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of others and provide greater benefits to student-athletes. As parents, when your children become involved in Strath Haven athletics, you have a right to understand the expectations placed on your child.

Parents can expect open, honest communication with coaches, to include:

- *Expectations for student-athletes
- *Locations and times of practices and contests
- *Team rules and requirements
- *Disciplinary issues which may result in suspension from participation

Parents are requested to express concerns directly to the head coach when they arise, and to notify coaches of any schedule conflicts well in advance. Concerns may include:

- *The treatment of your child
- *Ways to help your child improve
- *Concerns about your child's behavior

Coaches are considered professionals who must make decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. There are certain issues that are inappropriate to discuss with a coach:

- *Playing time
- *Team strategy
- *Team rules and policies
- *Other student-athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and parent. When such conferences are necessary or desired, the following procedures are recommended:

1. Please encourage your child to speak directly with the coach. This will help our student-athletes grow into young adults.
2. Call to set up an appointment.
3. If the coach cannot be reached, contact the Athletic Director, who will assist you in arranging a meeting.
4. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a practice or contest. These can be emotional times for the parent, the athlete, and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.
5. If the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution, call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation.

P.I.A.A

All secondary schools in the Wallingford-Swarthmore School District are members of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association.

PIAA by-laws that pertain to age, awards, attendance, health, transfers, residence, participation, representation, curriculum, and seasonal rules will be followed.

Each coach is responsible to know applicable rules, articulate them to team members and parents, and to inform them of policy and procedures.

Teams not participating in PIAA athletics will adhere to district policy and standards.

Policy on Equal Rights and Opportunity

It is the policy of the Wallingford-Swarthmore School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, and handicap in its educational and vocational programs or employment as required by Title IX, Section 504 and Title VI.

Assurance is given that services, activities, and facilities are accessible and usable by handicapped persons.

For information regarding civil rights and grievance procedure, contact the Coordinator of Title IX, Section 504, at 200 South Providence Road, Wallingford, PA, 19086.
610-892-3404

SOCIAL MEDIA

The social media is a fact of life today. There have been numerous accounts of students who have caused embarrassment to themselves and others because of irresponsible actions. Students should use caution and good judgment about what they choose to put on social media. Each sport and their participants are a family and as such, conflicts should be worked out within the group. Students should not be criticizing the program or those associated with it. Coaches may establish guidelines and consequences for student use of the social media.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Student-athletes must keep in mind that they are in the public eye and that their personal conduct will always be subject to the scrutiny of their fellow students, fans, opponents, and the media. They therefore have an obligation to serve as positive role models by subscribing to the following:

- *showing respect for authority
- * maintaining academic eligibility and training rules
- *emphasizing the ideals of sportsmanship, loyalty, ethical conduct and fair play

Any display of unsportsmanlike behavior towards an opponent, official, or spectator during the season may result in possible suspension from the team.

TEAM TRAVEL

All athletes are expected to ride the team bus to and from athletic contests. There is much to be learned from spending time with your teammates and coaches before and after a game.

We recognize that there may be extenuating circumstances which necessitate an athlete riding to or from a game with a parent. These would include such events as a family emergency; a medical or dental appointment. Travel release forms can be picked up in the Athletic Office or at www.wssd.org . The form should be submitted to the athletic director's office at least 24 hours before the date of the game in question. Athletes may not travel with anyone other than their own parent.

Regarding conflicting school activities, the following policy is acceptable to both coaches and band/front directors:

1. *Home football-home sports*-players must stay until their games are completed.

2. ***Home football-away sports***-players must stay until their games are completed and must ride bus back to Strath Haven.
3. ***Away football-home sports***-players must stay until their games are completed. If unable to make the band bus, athletes are responsible for getting to the game on their own, ASAP.
4. ***Away football-away sports***-players must stay until their games are completed. Players may then leave with their parents. Students who ride the bus back to Strath Haven must get to the football game on their own, ASAP.