

# SALT FORK STORM ATHLETIC CODE

## I. PHILOSOPHY

An interscholastic athletic program is a vital part of a school's total educational program.

Participation in a sound athletic program contributes to the development of health, happiness, physical skill, emotional maturity, social competence, and moral values. Such a program teaches the participants the value of cooperation and hard work. The student-athlete learns how to work with others for the achievement of common goals through teamwork.

A good athletic program develops boys, girls and teams of which the schools and communities can be proud. The development of responsibility to self, teammates, coaches, family, school and community and the development of an ability to work and put forth honest effort will be evident not only in the athletic arena but also in the classroom and in the contribution to community life.

Towards these ends, this Code shall govern the participation of student athletes in the cooperative athletic programs by and between Catlin C.U.S.D. #5 and Jamaica C.U.S.D. # 12, which is known as the Salt Fork Storm.

## II. Salt Fork Storm Athletic Administrative Chart



### III. Programs Included in Salt Fork Storm Cooperative

Baseball  
Boys' Basketball  
Girls' Basketball  
Cross Country  
Football

Boys' Track  
Girls' Track  
Girls' Volleyball  
Girls' Softball  
Scholastic Bowl

Wrestling  
Cheerleading  
Pom Pon  
Golf

#### Definitions:

- A. *Drugs and Other Prohibited Substances*  
Any alcoholic beverage, drug, drug paraphernalia, controlled substance, look-alike, tobacco or tobacco product or any other substance which, when taken into the human body is intended to alter mood or mental state, including any item or substance which is represented by a student to be or is believed by a student to be any of the foregoing, regardless of the true nature or appearance of the substance, except prescription drugs used by the person for whom such drugs were prescribed in the manner intended by the prescribing medical doctor.
- B. *Student Athlete*  
A student athlete is a boy or girl in grades 9 through 12 who participates in any intra-school sport, any interscholastic sport, cheerleading or pom pon, including all practices therefor.
- C. *Suspension*  
Suspension means loss of the privilege to participate in athletic contests or activities. During suspension for a first violation as defined at Section V below, the student athlete will be expected to practice and travel with the team but shall not be permitted to dress in uniform, or participate.

### IV. General Rules of Conduct for Athletes

The Boards of Education find that student athletes who participate in high school athletics are perceived by other students and the public as representatives of their respective schools. They are provided certain privileges and services not available to other students. The Boards have determined that it is necessary for the maintenance of discipline and to promote exemplary conduct that additional and unique rules should apply to athletics.

The Boards have determined that participation in athletics is a privilege. There is no right of students to participate in athletic competition, or to participate in particular sports activities. If a student athlete fails to comply with the rules and requirements set

forth in this Code, the privilege to participate in athletics may be lost in accordance with this Code.

The rules set forth in this Code apply to the student athlete, commencing with entrance into the ninth grade, and continue to apply to the student athlete until the completion of his/her athletic career. These rules apply both in and out of season for the sport(s) or activities in which each student athlete participates; during summers, holidays, and vacations; on and off campus; and whether or not misconduct occurs at a school-sponsored activity, function or event.

The following Rules of Conduct shall apply to all interscholastic sports offered by the Salt Fork Storm Cooperative.

At the beginning of each season, each coach shall inform his/her team and the parent(s)/guardian(s) of those student athletes, in written and oral form, as to all rules of conduct, whether contained in this Code or otherwise, which the student athlete is expected to follow.

A. Responsibility of the Athlete

1. Student Athletes are to follow the rules of conduct as outlined in their respective school's Student Rights and Responsibilities handbook.
2. Student Athletes are expected to dress appropriately for games, meets, and matches.
3. A student athlete's personal grooming shall conform to standards acceptable to the IHSA and their respective communities and schools.
4. A student athlete must be passing 4 classes (20 hours), exclusive of P.E. and Driver's Ed, and be in compliance with all other eligibility requirements of the IHSA in order to compete.
5. If a student athlete is absent from school the day of an athletic contest or activity, he/she is not eligible for that contest or activity, with the following exceptions:
  - a. Absence due to death in family.
  - b. Absence due to school sponsored field trip.
  - c. Absence which has been approved by the attendance office.
6. In addition to the rules of conduct contained in this Code, student athletes are expected to abide by any other rules set by the coaches of the sports in which they participate. These other rules shall be reviewed and

approved by the Athletic Director and the principals of each school before the start of each season.

7. Student Athletes must have passed a physical examination by a licensed physician and the written physical examination must be on file with the school before the beginning of practice for any sport.
8. Student Athletes must have purchased school approved health insurance or their parent(s)/guardian(s) must have signed a "statement of waiver" form; and provided written proof of health insurance on the student athlete; one of which must be on file with the student athlete's school prior to participation in any athletic program.
9. All student athletes must submit a written permission form, signed by his/her parent(s)/ guardian(s) in order to participate in athletics. Student athletes and parent(s)/guardian(s) acknowledge their receipt of a copy of this Code by signing the athletic permission form.

## **V. Rules of Conduct for Athletes**

- A. A student athlete who is suspended or expelled from his/her respective school will be ineligible to practice or participate in any interscholastic game, meet, or match during their suspension/expulsion. Ineligibility applies to in-school as well as out of school suspensions. A suspended/expelled student athlete, like any other student, will not be allowed to attend cooperative activities during the suspension/expulsion period.
- B. Prohibited Serious Offenses (enforced 365 days per year)
  1. Alcohol (use, possession, distribution, purchase or sale)
  2. Tobacco (use, possession, distribution, purchase or sale)
  3. Drugs (illegal use, possession, distribution, purchase or sale)
  4. Criminal Offenses (including all offenses which are defined under Illinois or Federal criminal codes as misdemeanors or felonies) A conviction by a court of law is not prerequisite to disciplinary measures under this Code.
  5. Hazing. Hazing is the demeaning or ridiculing of one or more athletes by another athlete or athletes as an initiation rite.

Student athletes are cautioned that their presence in circumstances where prohibited activities are occurring shall constitute the conclusion that the student athlete was participating in those prohibited activities. Student athletes are advised to avoid circumstances where they might be so implicated. A student athlete shall immediately leave any place where substances prohibited by this Code are present or are being

used, or where other prohibited conduct is occurring, upon the student athlete becoming aware of the presence of prohibited activities, and a failure to do so shall, for purposes of this Code, be considered participation in the prohibited conduct by the student athlete.

C. Penalties for Use of Alcohol, Tobacco, or Drugs, for Criminal Offenses, or for Hazing.

Use, possession, illegal involvement with or being under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs or look alike drugs, or the use or possession of tobacco or drug-related paraphernalia, the commission of a criminal offense, or hazing, AT ANY TIME DURING THE CALENDAR OR ACADEMIC YEAR, is prohibited.

1. First violation: For any allegation of such an infraction, a meeting shall be held with the student athlete, the principal of the student athlete's school or his designee, the coach of the sport involved, the coach or coaches of the upcoming and preceding seasons, (if so desired by the Athletic Director), and the Athletic Director, (this committee being known as the Core Committee). The student athlete may attend practice until this meeting has been held. This meeting shall be held as soon as is reasonably possible. The parent(s)/ guardian(s) may attend the meeting. If the student athlete chooses to appeal the decision of the Core Committee, he/she may do so under Appeals, Section VII of this Code. If it is determined by the Core Committee that the student athlete is guilty of such an infraction, the student athlete will be suspended from participation in the following number of dates or contests:
  - a. Thirty-three percent (33%) of the number of contests in the current season in which the student athlete is participating; or
  - b. Thirty-three percent (33%) of the number of contests for the next season in which the student athlete will participate if the current season is complete; or
  - c. A combination of both when there are less than thirty-three percent (33%) of the scheduled contests remaining in the current season at the time of the infraction.
  - d. In order to receive credit for a suspension under this paragraph, a student athlete must successfully complete the non-suspension portion of the affected season or seasons and otherwise meet all team and individual criteria set by his/her coach.

However, if, prior to a determination of guilt by the Core Committee, a student athlete voluntarily admits an infraction, the student will be suspended for only two-thirds (2/3) of the first suspension period. The

student athlete and the parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be notified in writing of the penalty imposed.

The number of contests for determining length of season shall be the regular season contests only. However, tournament games will be used as games suspended, if tournaments occur during the suspension period.

2. Second violation: If a student athlete is alleged to have committed a second infraction involving the use or possession of alcohol, illegal drugs, look alike drugs, tobacco and/or drug-related paraphernalia, the commission of a criminal offense, or hazing, at any time during his/her high school career, the following procedure shall apply:

A meeting shall be held with the student athlete and the Core Committee. The student athlete may attend practice until after this meeting has been held. This meeting shall be held as soon as reasonably possible. The parent(s)/guardian(s) may attend this meeting. If it is determined at this meeting that the student athlete committed such a second infraction, the student athlete will be prohibited from participation in all athletic programs for one (1) calendar year from the date of the suspension. The student athlete and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be notified in writing of the penalty imposed.

3. Third violation: If a student athlete is alleged to have committed a third infraction involving the use or possession of illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, look alike drugs and/or drug-related paraphernalia, the commission of a criminal offense, or hazing, at any time during his/her high school career, a meeting will be held with the student athlete, the Core Committee and the Superintendent of the student athlete's school or his designee. The parent(s)/guardian(s) may attend this meeting of the student athlete. The student athlete may attend practice until after this meeting has been held. If it is determined at this meeting that the student athlete has committed a third such infraction, the student athlete will be prohibited from participation in any athletic program for the remainder of his/her high school career. The Superintendent of the student athlete's school shall cause the parents/guardian(s) of the student athlete to be notified in writing of the penalty imposed.

D. *Penalties for Distribution, Purchase or Sale of Alcohol, Tobacco or Drugs, for Serious Criminal Offenses, or for Serious Hazing.*

For any infraction involving the distribution, purchase, or sale of alcohol, illegal drugs or look alike drugs or drug-related paraphernalia, the commission of a serious criminal offense, or hazing deemed to be of a serious nature, any of which the Core Committee, following the hearing procedures set forth in Section V (C) above, determines to be flagrant, the Core Committee may impose a penalty as if the infraction were the student athlete's third violation of this Code.

E. Other Prohibited Offenses (enforced 365 days per year)

1. Any violation of school rules, School Board Policy or student handbook regulations will be dealt with according to the student athlete's home school student handbook.
2. Any violation of team rules will be dealt with according to those rules, as approved by the administrations of each school.

F. Miscellaneous

1. Conviction of a criminal offense is conclusive evidence that the student committed the offense. Other evidence may also demonstrate that an offense occurred, but mere arrest or charge are insufficient in and of themselves to show that the student athlete committed the offense.
2. As an additional penalty for any infraction set forth in Section V (B) above, the student athlete shall forfeit his/her eligibility to serve as a team captain for the season in which the infraction occurred, or the next succeeding season, if the infraction occurred during an off season.

G. Procedures of Athletic Core Committee

1. The Athletic Director of each school shall promptly investigate any allegation he/she receives based on information or reports from any source that a student athlete has violated any of the prohibited conduct as provided in Section V (B) of this Code.
2. After appropriate investigation and a determination by the Athletic Director as to whether there is sufficient merit to the allegations to warrant a meeting of the Core Committee, the Athletic Director shall report all information relative to the allegations to the principals of both schools.
3. The Core Committee shall be called by the Athletic Director and shall consist of the following members:
  - a. Principal of the Student Athlete's School

- b. Athletic Director
- c. Coach of the sport involved or coach of a preceding or upcoming sport (if the student athlete is not in competition when alleged to have violated this Code).

A written statement of allegations must be on file with the Athletic Director before the Core Committee is called.

- 4. The Core Committee will determine each alleged violation by a student athlete. The Core Committee shall give written and oral notice of the charge to the accused student athlete and provide the accused student athlete an opportunity to respond or present an explanation of the events.
- 5. The Core Committee shall consider any material and relevant evidence in determining whether an infraction of this Code has occurred. The penalty imposed by the Core Committee shall be in accordance with Sections V (C), V (D), and V (F) above.
- 6. The Core Committee shall meet the following time lines:
  - a. The Core Committee must meet within 7 school days from the report to the principal by the Athletic Director of the allegation of a violation.
  - b. A decision must be reached within 7 school days from the date of the meeting.

## VI. Athletic Code Appeal Process Chart

Joint Boards of Education Review Committee



Athletic Advisory Council  
Principal, Athletic Director  
Coach of Sport, Preceding Coach,  
and/or Upcoming Coach



Core Committee  
Athletic Director  
Coach of Sport, Preceding Coach,  
and/or Upcoming Coach



Student Athletes

## **VII. Appeals**

Appeals from a decision of the Core Committee shall be first submitted to the Athletic Director of the student athlete's home school. The student athlete's case will then be reviewed by a five or six member Athletic Advisory Council consisting of the principal of Catlin, assistant principal at Jamaica, Athletic Director, head coach of the sport and if applicable, the coaches of the upcoming or preceding sports seasons. The decision of the Athletic Advisory Council shall be final, unless a Joint Boards of Education Review Committee elects to review the case, in which event, the decision of the Joint Boards of Education Review Committee shall be final.

An appeal must be submitted in writing to the Athletic Director no later than 3 school days after a decision has been rendered at each stage of the appeals process.

## **VIII. Awards**

In order to receive an athletic award for a sport season, a student athlete must meet the criteria set forth by his/her coach, and shall not have been first suspended for violations of the prohibitions of Section V above during that season.

Award winners must be present at the awards banquet in order to receive his/her award. Only if the student athlete is excused beforehand by the coach/administrator will the absent student athlete receive his/her award.

## **SALT FORK STORM ATHLETIC ACTIVITY FORM**

\*Participants in athletics shall at all times abide by the rules of their activity or sport. Unsportsmanlike behavior is prohibited.

Participants' conduct in and out of school shall not reflect negatively on their school or create a disruptive influence on the discipline, good order, moral or educational environment in the school.

Participants who violate the attached Athletic Code are subject to suspension or dismissal from the activity. Participants are also subject to such other penalties permitted by the rules of the applicable coach.

The Athletic Code applies both in and out of season of the sports or activities in which each athlete participates; during summers, holidays and vacations; on and off campus; and whether or not misconduct occurs at a school or school-sponsored activity.

Students will not be allowed to participate in athletic activities unless school officials are provided with this form signed by both the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the student.

As a parent/guardian, I have received a copy of the Salt Fork Athletic Code and have read and understood its contents.

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

As a student, I have received a copy of the Salt Fork Athletic Code and have read and understood its contents. If I choose to participate in an athletic activity, I will abide by these rules.

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

\* Participant is defined as sport participant, cheerleader, Pom Pon participant, or student support staff.