

## **Standards for Extracurricular and Interscholastic Athletic Participation**

All students at Scarsdale High School are expected to behave in a manner that is consistent with the provisions of the District's Code of Conduct and the Student Handbook. These documents provide extensive descriptions of expectations, as well as prohibited conduct on school property. They should be used as a reference when students and parents wish to clarify specific illustrations of student behavior or the legal rights to which they are entitled.

The vast majority of Scarsdale High School students participate in extracurricular activities, whether in club, athletic, or community service contexts. Representing Scarsdale High School in extracurricular activities is a privilege. The extension of that privilege depends upon adherence to standards of behavior that reflect positively upon the individual as well as the school.

These Standards of Behavior extend beyond those set forth in the Code of Conduct and the Student Handbook. The Standards of Behavior for all participating students that go beyond the Code are stated below. Students who represent Scarsdale in sports or extracurricular activities are expected to demonstrate good citizenship in both the school and local communities. While this is true for all students, the commitment to appropriate standards of behavior is especially important for those who serve as student leaders. While we are fully aware of our limitations in monitoring the off-campus behavior of our students, we still wish for them to recognize the high expectations we have. These expectations apply to every student involved in sports or club activities whether on or off the school premises and regardless of whether school is in session at the time of the conduct. Therefore, we will rely upon the fine relationships developed between coaches and their student-athletes and faculty advisors and their club members to address behavior that compromises student health and safety, violates the standards, or interferes with the goals set by and for each team and club. Coaches and advisors will inform the athletic director or an assistant principal of issues that require the assignment of consequences for violations of the standards. In the event of an egregious violation of the standards, the coach and/or athletic director will inform a school administrator, and the school administration and/or the Fairness Committees will review the behavior of athletes or club members to determine an appropriate course of action. Finally, we will hold our captains and club officers to a higher standard because their leadership roles cannot be associated with behaviors that compromise the identity or integrity of their teams or clubs. Therefore, the violation of the Code by any team captain or club officer will be reviewed and removal of the leadership title and responsibilities will be a prime consideration.

### Academic Integrity

The Code of Conduct, at Regulation 3, prohibits academic misconduct. All participating students must adhere to the standards set forth in the Code regarding academic integrity. Any conduct which violates the academic misconduct section of the Code will be subject to penalties set forth in the Code as well as the loss of the privilege to participate in extracurricular activities and/or sports, as deemed appropriate by the Principal.

### Substance Use

As a prerequisite to participation in athletic or extracurricular activities at Scarsdale, students are expected not to use alcohol, tobacco, and/or controlled substances. This expectation extends beyond the school day and school property. Accordingly, any student who has consumed alcohol, tobacco, and/or controlled substances while a member of a Scarsdale club or team, whether on or off school property, may be subject to the penalty of losing the privilege to participate in that club or team at

Scarsdale. The penalties set forth in the Standards will be addressed by the school administration and/or Fairness Committees. This expectation as to conduct, and its corresponding penalty, is in addition to the prohibitions and penalties relating to alcohol, tobacco, and drug use and possession set forth in the Code of Conduct.

### Respect

The Scarsdale School District expects all its students to act respectfully toward other Scarsdale students, school personnel, opponents, officials, and the Scarsdale community. The District reserves the right to limit the privilege of any student to participate in extracurricular activities or athletics if that student brings discredit upon the Scarsdale Schools through inappropriate conduct. This provision encompasses behavior both on and off campus. The administration is charged with the authority to determine if any student's conduct warrants such penalty, and the Fairness Committees may be delegated with such responsibility at the administration's discretion. This provision of the Standards supplements the prohibitions on certain conduct set forth in the Code of Conduct and in no way diminishes the District's authority to render the penalties set forth in the Code.

### Attendance

Regular attendance at practices, meetings, and competitions is essential for optimizing performance, developing camaraderie, and maintaining morale. Therefore:

- Students on a team or in a club understand that participation in all practices, meets, games, and similar events is expected to the greatest degree practicable.
- In the event of a conflict between extra-curricular activities and academic demands, medical appointments, or similar matters, students are expected to provide coaches and faculty advisors with as much notice as possible, and coaches and faculty will endeavor to accommodate students' needs.
- Coaches and faculty advisors will receive an attendance report daily to be used to determine each student's eligibility for participation on that day. Students may not participate in extra-curricular activities on any day they cut a class or their illness prevented them from attending more than half the school day.

### Process and Practice

To ensure that all students and parents are familiar with the Standards for Extracurricular and Interscholastic Athletic Participation and will abide by its provisions:

- All students wishing to participate in extra-curricular activities will attend a mandatory meeting prior to the commencement of the activity, where the Standards will be read and the students' responsibilities under the Standards will be discussed.
- All students wishing to participate in extra-curricular activities and their parents or legal guardians will acknowledge their understanding of the Standards by signing the extra-curricular pledge and submitting it to the coach or faculty advisor.

At the beginning of the school year and prior to each sport season, parents will be reminded that the Standards for Extracurricular and Interscholastic Athletic Participation document is available for their review on the school website and the student handbook.

## Extra-curricular Pledge

I acknowledge that I will abide by the Standards for Extra-curricular and Interscholastic Athletic Participation. I recognize that:

- breaches of the Standards for Extra-curricular and Interscholastic Athletic Participation will be addressed on an individual basis.
- I am expected to maintain a favorable academic standing.
- I am expected to display good sportsmanship as a player, a participant, and a spectator.
- I am expected to participate in all practices, events, and competition unless excused.
- I will inform my coach/faculty advisor in advance of academic matters, medical appointments, and similar personal issues that might prevent me from participation.
- I understand that I may not participate in that day's extra-curricular activities if illness prevented me from attending more than half my classes or I cut a class.

As indicated by our signatures below, we acknowledge that we read and understand the provisions of the Standards for Extra-curricular and Interscholastic Athletic Participation, and we agree to abide by those standards.

Name of Student (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Student \_\_\_\_\_

Sport/Club \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

This signed pledge must be returned to the coach/faculty advisor.