

# SUPERIOR JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL

## STUDENT ATHLETE HANDBOOK

2023-2024

## **I. Statement of Philosophy**

- A.** Athletics play a vital role in the life of Superior Jr/Sr High School. Young people learn a great deal from their participation in interscholastic athletics. Lessons in sportsmanship, teamwork, competition and how to win and lose gracefully are an integral part of each team in our athletic program. Athletics plays an important part also in helping the individual student develop a healthy body. Athletic competition adds to our school spirit and helps all students—spectators as well as participants—develop pride in their school.
- B.** The interscholastic athletic program shall be conducted in accordance with existing Superior Jr/Sr High School policies, rules, and regulations. While the Board of Education takes great pride in winning, it does not condone “winning at any cost” and discourages any and all pressure, which might tend to neglect good sportsmanship and good mental health. At all times the athletic program must be conducted in such a way so as to justify it as an educational activity.
- C.** This handbook does not attempt to cover every rule, regulation, or requirement governing student athletes. Athletes are expected to conduct themselves with respect and regard for their team members, coaches, and the school staff.

## **II. Extracurricular Activities-Defined**

- A.** All interscholastic activities in grades six through twelve that are (1) of a competitive nature and involve more than one school where a championship, winner, or rating is determined; and are (2) endeavors for which no credit is earned in meeting graduation or promotion requirements that are of a continuous and ongoing nature, organized, planned, or sponsored by the District, consistent with District policy, shall be conducted under the provisions of this policy. Such activities will be established and designed to offer students worthwhile athletic and leisure-time interests, wholesome recreational and social activity, and an opportunity to develop skills in democratic and cooperative management for these activities. These programs will be appropriate to the maturity of students and as varied as staff and facilities permit.
- B.** All such activities conducted under the auspices of the District shall be under the direct supervision of the Superior School Board approved and certificated individuals responsible for the activity.

## **III. You Are Eligible If:**

- A.** You have had an annual physical examination and your completed form is on file in the school office.
- B.** You have recorded your birth certificate with the secretary in charge of eligibility.
- C.** You have a completed parent permission form on file in the office.

- D. You have the school insurance or a waiver of liability from your parents and record of insurance on file at the school office.
- E. You maintain passing grades in your classes and acceptable behavior during the school year.
- F. You have satisfied all other requirements set forth by the Arizona Interscholastic Association, namely enrollment, attendance, domicile, transfer, recruiting, age limit/birth record, physical examination, parent or legal guardian consent, student insurance, amateur standing, clinics/summer camps, competition on school team sports only and tryouts. The student eligibility requirements are enumerated and presented in detail in Article 16 of the AIA Bylaws.

#### IV. Superior Jr/Sr High School Academic Eligibility

**Note:** Eligibility is governed by the Arizona State Board of Education, the Arizona Interscholastic Association, and the Superior Unified Schools Governing Board. It is necessary to have the extracurricular activities function within a realistic framework of control. Every year over 70,000 students in the state of Arizona participate in interscholastic activities at the high school level. The Arizona Interscholastic Association is comprised of member schools that establish eligibility criteria for students to be able to participate.

When you become a member of an interscholastic team at your high school, you will find that both your school and the AIA will have rules you must follow in order to be eligible for interscholastic participation. AIA rules must be followed as minimum standards for all interscholastic competition in any member school. Our high school may have additional requirements, but they may not be less stringent than these statewide minimums.

##### A. AIA Eligibility Rules:

1. Enrollment Rule—Bylaw 15.3. You must be enrolled and attending classes in your high school no later than the 14<sup>th</sup> school day of the semester in order to establish eligibility. If you have been enrolled in school for 15 or more days during any one semester, it will count as one of the eight semesters of high school attendance during which you may possibly have eligibility.
2. Academic Rule—Bylaw 15.4. You must be enrolled in a minimum of five courses the first six semesters of high school and a minimum as determined by your school during the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> semester.
3. Domicile Rule—Bylaw 15.5. Except as otherwise stated in Article 15, you, whether an adult or not, are privileged with eligibility for interscholastic competition only at the school in the district in which your parents are domiciled. In multi-school districts, you are eligible only at the school in the attendance zone in which your parents are domiciled.
4. Age Limit/Birth Record Rule—Bylaw 15.6. If you become 19 years of age before September 1, you are NOT eligible for any part of that school year. You must submit an acceptable record of birth before your name is placed on an eligibility list for varsity.
5. Physical Examination Rule—Bylaw 15.7. You must have a physician's record of a physical examination on file with the principal stating that you are physically fit

for interscholastic competition. Your physical examination for the following year must be given on or after March 1.

6. Parental or Legal Guardianship Rule—Bylaw 15.8. You must get signed permission to participate from your parents or guardian on a form provided by your school.
7. Maximum Participation Rule—Bylaw 15.9. You are eligible to participate for only four seasons in each sport and no more than eight semesters. You may be eligible for no more than eight semesters you attend school after you enroll in the ninth grade. Attendance for fifteen days or more in a semester constitutes a semester of attendance.
8. Transfer Rule—Bylaw 15.10. If you move with your parents to a new school district, you will be eligible at your new school provided you meet all other eligibility requirements. If you transfer schools and your parents do not move into the district of your new school, you will be ineligible for 365 days.
9. Amateur Rule—Bylaw 15.11. You must be an amateur. This means that you have never used and are not using your knowledge of athletics or athletic skill in an athletic contest for financial gain. You shall participate and always have participated under your own name.
10. Recruitment Rule—Bylaw 15.12. The bylaws prohibit recruiting of high school students for athletic purposes. If you are solicited to enroll in or transfer to a school to participate in athletics, you are being illegally recruited and your eligibility is in jeopardy. If the recruitment rule is violated, you will not be eligible at a member school until reinstated by the AIA Executive Board.
11. Non-School Participation Rule—Bylaw 14.4. If you are a member of school team, you may not practice or compete with a non-school team in the same sport during the same season. You will become ineligible if you violate the above rule.
12. Sportsmanship Rule—Bylaw 16.4. If you are ejected from an interscholastic contest for unsportsmanlike conduct, you will be ineligible for your team's next contest. You may also be subject to other penalties.

**B. A.I.A. Policy:** In order that over-enthusiastic students do not place a social or athletic function on a higher plane than the academic program, the following policy will be adhered to:

1. Academic and Scholarship Rule
  - a. The state eligibility criterion for extracurricular participation shall be a passing grade in all classes in which the student is enrolled and the student shall maintain progress towards promotion or graduation.
  - b. Ninth Grade Enrollment- An eighth grade student graduate enrolling in the ninth grade for the first time may attend any member high school and be eligible for interscholastic activities provided District Board Policy governing boundaries are met.
  - c. The school grading interval for determining eligibility shall: (a) be determined by each school; (b) be no longer than a nine-week duration, but may be less than nine weeks; (c) occur at equal intervals throughout the year; (d) apply to all students (e) A student must be enrolled in a minimum of five courses the

first twelve quarters of high school and a minimum as determined by the district during the last four quarters.

- C. Superior Jr/Sr High Grading Intervals** – Superior High School District grading intervals for eligibility will be every two weeks. Warning and Ineligibility Lists will be prepared by Athletic Secretary.
- D. Grading and Remediation for Athletes that are failing.** A student must receive a passing grade in all subjects in order to be eligible to participate in Superior High School extracurricular activities. If an athlete has received a warning notice he/she has one week to improve his/her grade. If the athlete is unable to improve his/her grade during the warning period, he/she will be ineligible for a two week period of time or until he/she has raised their grade and the teacher provides written notice to the athletic director with the exception of failures at nine week or semester grading periods. NOTE: If a student fails a nine week grading period or semester, he/she will be ineligible and may not play for a two week period. Athletes on the warning and/or ineligibility lists may be required to attend study periods before or after school. It should be noted that a student athlete may NOT transfer out of a class to avoid a low or failing grade. If a transfer takes place the grade follows the athlete and the athlete is ineligible for the subsequent interval unless all work is made up in the class to which he/she transferred and eligibility is restored. Student athletes that are ineligible may attend practice sessions and group meetings, but they may not participate in any activity that includes team or group competition. They also may not be involved in any athletic trip which results in the loss of class time.
- Note:** Coaches are encouraged to organize, coordinate or schedule peer tutoring before school or lunchtime study hall sessions or follow up monitoring programs for students who are in danger of failing.
- E. Behavioral Problems.** Since participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right, Superior Jr/Sr High School reserves the right to determine participation in the athletic program based on a student's conduct inside and outside of the classroom, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our athletes are expected to be role models for the student body. Any student whose behavior presents a problem or jeopardizes school discipline may be excluded or removed from a team for the rest of the season. In extreme cases, a student may forfeit his/her privilege of participation a Superior Jr/Sr High School for the entire year. Discipline is the entire backbone of our athletic program. Students are required to abide by all athletic policies and school rules.
- F. Probation, Judicial** – Any student athlete or prospective student athlete who is placed on formal probation (not just a verbal warning) by any magistrate, justice of the peace, or other judicial court shall petition the athletic director in order to participate or continue to participate in interscholastic athletics.
1. A meeting will be called by the athletic director to determine the eligibility or continued eligibility of the student. The parent and student will be invited to

attend the meeting and speak regarding their issue/s of concern. The meeting may also include other school district personnel who have an interest in the deliberations.

2. It should be remembered that participation in interscholastic athletics is legally a privilege and not a right. Participation may be denied.
3. Continued defiance of school and/or judicial authority may be cause for dismissal from a sports team or activity after a hearing with the athletic director/administration. Athletic participation may be denied permanently.

## V. Training Rules

**A. Discipline** is the backbone of our program. Each coach will have a set of written rules and regulations which are set up for their respective sport. A coach's individual rules may be more restrictive than other rules covered in this handbook as long as athletes are informed of these rules at the beginning of the season. Coaches are asked to POST these rules and also to have participants sign off on the rules as well as their parents or guardians. A copy of the rules should be given to the Athletic Director. Athletes must also be advised regarding the Discipline Policies covered in the Superior Jr/Sr High School Student Handbook, Superior Jr/Sr High School Athletic Handbook and their enforcement.

1. **Tobacco** – Defined as carrying, holding, throwing away, stomping out a cigarette, etc. and or chewing, carrying, or discarding snuff. Penalty: 1<sup>st</sup> Offense – Dismissal from the team.
2. **Alcoholic Beverages, Dangerous Drugs, Weapons** – The possession or use of alcoholic beverages, weapons, and/or dangerous, illegal drugs is strictly prohibited. Possession, sale, or consumption of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs and/or weapons will result in dismissal from the team.
3. **Theft** – Theft of any kind will not be tolerated.
4. **Destruction/Vandalism of school property** – Destroying or vandalizing school property (home or away) will not be tolerated.
5. **Use of obscene language** – Use of obscene or vulgar language will not be tolerated.
6. **Displays** of anger or violent actions towards coaches, officials, spectators, athletes, or any other person will not be tolerated.
7. **Hazing** – ARS 15-2301 Hazing means any intentional, knowing or reckless act committed by a student, whether individually or in concert with other persons, against another student and in which both of the following apply: a) the act was committed in connection with an initiation into, an affiliation with or the maintenance of membership in any organization that is affiliated with an educational institution; b) The act contributes to substantial risk of potential physical injury, mental harm or degradation. Penalty – 1<sup>st</sup> Offense, Removal from squad and referral to Superior Police Department.

**B. Dropping a Sport** – If you drop a sport after attending any practice you will not be able to participate in any other sport or activity until the regular season of the sport

you quit is over. Special case may occur where both coaches agree that it is in the best interest of the athlete to terminate a sport and join another.

- C. Dismissal from a Sport** – If an athlete is dismissed from a sport, he/she may not participate in any other sport or activity until the regular season of the sport you were dismissed from is over.
- D. Dual Participation** – An athlete, for the good of him/herself and their team may participate in one sport per season. Special case may be referred to the coaches of the sport involved and the Athletic Director and Principal if necessary.

## VI. Practice and Games

- A.** A student-athlete must attend all his/her scheduled classes and practices in order to practice or participate in actual interscholastic competition. (Absences for legitimate reasons – doctor appointment (athlete must return a release to play), family illness (notification by parent/guardian), death in the family, etc. can be prearranged. If an athlete is absent for any length of time on a game day, he/she may not be allowed to play in the game unless he/she returns with a doctor's release from a medical appointment – no ditching.
- B.** Any student suspended on or off campus is ineligible to practice/participate/compete for the duration of the suspension. Each suspension day starts at 7:00 A.M. and continues 24 hours. Unless the suspension is immediately invoked (student removed from campus) the suspension is served the next day.
- C.** When an athlete breaks a team rule, the athlete is placed on competitive suspension or is ineligible; he/she is required to attend practices.
- D.** Athletes are required to travel to and from athletic contests with the team. We discourage parents from making travel arrangements for their students but we recognize emergencies may arise. If you are going to take your child from the travel arrangements made by the school, Superior Jr/Sr High School requires you to sign a release form. Under no circumstances will Superior Jr/Sr High School release an athlete to anyone but a parent/guardian.
- E. ATHLETIC INJURIES** – All athletic injuries must be documented by the person in charge or an athletic trainer. Forms are available in the office. Each coach must be certain that every injury requiring medical attention is documented. A copy of the report must be submitted to the Athletic Director's Office/Secretary **NO LATER THAN THE DAY FOLLOWING THE INJURY.**
  - 1. All injuries, no matter how insignificant, must be reported to the athletic trainer, a coach, or student trainer. Parents must act as our home monitoring system. Parents must report injuries that players very often try to hide.
  - 2. Players have an obligation to report all equipment problems.
  - 3. Any athlete sent to the doctor for medical attention or who seeks medical attention on his/her own must return with a signed note from the doctor giving the athlete clearance to participate.

4. No athlete is permitted in the training room unless an athletic trainer or coach is present.
5. No food, no horseplay, and no socializing are permitted in the training room. Only those athletes needing services are allowed to be present.
6. All athletes must obey the instructions of the athletic trainer or coaches in the training room.

#### **VII. PERSONAL APPEARANCE AND CONDUCT – All athletes should:**

- A. Be well groomed at all times.
- B. Have hair (including mustaches) neatly trimmed. No beards allowed.
- C. Dress neatly for trips that apply.
- D. Maintain conduct under the rules of their individual coaches.

#### **VIII. CARE OF EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS**

- A. School uniforms and equipment issued will be inventoried by coaches and are to be used or worn in competition or practice only or with the head coach's permission.
- B. You will be held responsible for all athletic equipment for unusual abuse or loss.
- C. Athletic equipment is the responsibility of the student to whom it was issued.
- D. Students shall return all athletic equipment issued to them immediately after the completion of the sport or the day after being dismissed or dropped from a team. Students will pay for all items not returned and a receipt for payment issued. Money will be refunded if the receipt is returned as well as equipment in good condition at a later date.
- E. Students failing to return all equipment issued to them or failing to pay for lost items shall not receive any honors or awards for that sport or be permitted to take part in any other sport until satisfactory clearance is made.

#### **IX. Due Process for Athletes/Student Grievance Procedure**

- A. The coach will inform the athlete of the alleged violation and the disciplinary action taken. Within (2) school days, the athlete has the right to appeal the coach's decision to the athletic director. Within (2) school days the athlete has the right to appeal the athletic director's decision to the school principal. Within (2) school days, the athlete has the right to appeal the principal's decision to the superintendent who will have "final" jurisdiction over all athletic/activity disciplinary actions.
- B. If a parent or athlete has a complaint or problem concerning athletics, the following steps in addressing any grievance will be followed:  
The student goes to :
  - 1) Coach
  - 2) Parent
  - 3) Parent to Coach
  - 4) Parent to Athletic Director
  - 5) Parent to Principal
  - 6) Parent to Superintendent
  - 7) Parent to Governing Board

**X. Awards**

- A.** High school students who successfully complete the athletic season will earn a varsity letter for varsity sports. Athletes completing their first junior varsity sport will receive their numerals. Athletes who have completed their first two seasons on a varsity team will receive their letters and numerals.
- B.** Dismissal or dropping from a team or team activity will result in the loss of any award the student may have been eligible for in that sport/activity.