

SKPS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION STUDENT ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

Being a SKPS athlete is a privilege, not a right, and by choosing to participate in SKPS athletic programs students must recognize that they represent SKPS and must understand and accept their responsibilities. All SKPS athletes are expected to reflect an image that encompasses the Christian values taught at SKPS, a positive attitude, the highest ethical and moral character, responsibility, competitive spirit and integrity. SKPS understands that interscholastic athletics are a significant part of the educational process. Athletics provide an educational opportunity in which students can learn essential life lessons to enhance those learned in an academic classroom. By participating in athletics, you will experience the essential requirement for teamwork as well as the mental and physical challenges of training and competition. You will also experience winning and losing graciously and respectfully.

It is imperative that all students taking part in athletics understand that integrity, fairness, and respect are principles of good sportsmanship as well as lifetime values which are taught through athletics. SKPS athletic programs will thrive on the spirit of competition and be fueled by honest rivalry, courteous relations, and graceful acceptance of the results.

Please recognize that you are a student first, and your participation in Diocesan athletics derives from your status as a student. Accordingly, all SKPS policies governing student conduct apply to you. By registering for a sport at SKPS each athlete agrees to the following:

1. That you will exhibit proper behavior and respect towards administrators, coaches, teammates, opposing teams, and officials.
2. That you understand the primary reason for your being in school is academic work and that athletics are there to supplement and enhance your academic experience. As such, athletes participating at the JV and Varsity levels must maintain a C average or above in order to be able to play. Moreover, no student will be permitted to participate in a sports program on a day when he/she has been absent from school.
3. That at each level of every sport, players must recognize and appreciate that playing time may be affected by attendance at practice, behavior, effort and attitude.
4. That you understand that participation on an athletic team demands a commitment that involves both dedication and sacrifice and that you also appreciate the commitments and sacrifices made by your parents and coaches to permit you to participate in sports.
5. That you understand that practice is the most important part of the season and off season. Effective practice requires your attendance, concentration and dedication. When you are at practice you are committed to bettering your skills.
6. That you understand and demonstrate a level of physical conditioning and fitness sufficient to participate competently at practice and in games.

7. That you exhibit good moral character and civility by: being dependable; accepting responsibility for your actions/inactions; persevering in the face of challenges and setbacks; being truthful; playing by the rules; controlling any anger or frustration you may feel at practice or in games; accepting losing/winning gracefully; practicing good manners on and off field; treating others as you wish to be treated; and actively support your teammates.
8. That you represent SKPS in all you do whether at practice, home games, or away games. Those outside of SKPS will often judge SKPS based on what they observe of our athletic teams so please always act appropriately and be judicious and appropriate in your words and actions.
9. That you understand that individual recognition and accomplishments are the result of teamwork.
10. That you will accept and respect the decisions of your coaches and recognize that coaches are acting in the best interest of the team.
11. That you realize that the true nature of competition is evaluated by effort, sportsmanship, leadership, and teamwork.
12. That you will strive to learn and understand the rules of your sport.
13. That you understand that any athlete who has sustained a concussion or other documented injury preventing sport play is not permitted to return to his/her team until a doctor's release is provided to the Head Coach. Athletes must be honest with their coaches when it comes to reporting any injuries and accept their coach's decision on removing them from competition due to injury.

Last, and of utmost importance, please recognize the importance of the Diocesan athletic prayer that is recited before games and please recite the prayer with proper reverence. After all, you are blessed by God with the physical and mental abilities to be able to play sports, as well as blessed with parents, coaches and administrators who work hard to provide you athletic opportunities so taking time to thank God for these blessings is very important.