

RIGHT TO KNOW MEETING

THE MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Stephenson Junior and Senior High School to develop a community of lifelong learners who are able to employ critical thinking skills in the furtherance of a commitment to global citizenship based on healthy interactions with others.

THE MEANING OF “RIGHT TO KNOW”

Stephenson Area Public Schools is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and orderly environment in everything we do. We are committed to our best to teach safe techniques and demand that our student athletes exhibit proper safe techniques. Student safety is our number one priority. We are committed to teach safety in every skill, drill and team concept. With the best instruction possible we acknowledge that inter scholastic athletics can lead to injury up to and including death in certain situations. We want to make sure that parents and athletes understand that during inter scholastic practice, travel and competition there is a risk of injury occurring.

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS/ CANCELLED PRACTICES AND EVENTS

In case of bad weather and other local emergencies, please listen to any local radio or television station to be advised of school closings or early dismissals. If bad weather or other emergency occurs during the day, please listen to local media stations for possible early dismissal information. Please do not call school officials to inquire if school will be in session.

For your child's safety, make certain your child knows ahead of time where to go in case of an early dismissal. If we dismiss early for an emergency, all after school functions may be cancelled at the discretion of administration.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Athletic Code applies to all students who want to participate in athletics. Athletics include competitive sports, extracurricular activities, and cheerleading. The code applies in addition to other rules and regulations concerning student conduct and imposes additional requirements on student athletes and cheerleaders.

BEING AN ATHLETE IS A PRIVILEGE NOT A RIGHT

Participation in athletics is a privilege. Those who participate have a responsibility to positively represent the school and community. Student athletes are expected to conduct themselves both in and out of school in a manner appropriate to their responsibilities as representatives of the school district. If a student fails to comply with the terms of this code, the privilege to participate in athletics may be lost in accordance with the terms of this Athletic code. Specific incidents of behavior or academic problems not covered in the Athletic Code are subject to review and disciplinary action of the administration or coach. The purpose of the Athletic Code is not to restrict freedom, but, instead, to encourage the athletes to practice and develop greater appreciation of the values associated with responsible behavior, healthful living and good citizenship.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

Initial eligibility is based on previous semester grades.

Students will be allowed to compete in games if they have 1 or less failure.

Students that fail two (2) semester courses will be ineligible for the first 50% of the regular season games and not allowed to compete in preseason games.

Students that fail more than two (2) semester courses will be ineligible for 60 scheduled school days per MHSAA guidelines.

GRADE CHECKS

Grade checks will start the 3rd Friday after school begins.

If a student is failing 2 or more classes, he/she will be ineligible to compete the following week.

The next Friday, his/her grades will be checked again. If their semester grade is 60% or above, the athlete will be eligible the following week. If not, the athlete will be ineligible for another week.

The next grade checks for all fall sports will be every 3 weeks.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

An athlete must have the following fully executed documents on file at the school office before the athlete's first participation in any activity. Students must not be allowed to practice until an acceptable signed statement of physical examination and consent has been provided.

A current physical examination report (given on or after April 15th of the previous school year) completed by the Physician, Physician's Assistant, or Nurse Practitioner who administers the physical examination and is physically able to participate in athletic tryouts, practices and contests.

The physical examination report is on file with the athletic director and is effective for the entire year. The card must contain the signatures of the athlete and parent/guardian in the areas provided and the person conducting the examination.

A receipt showing the athlete and his/her parents received a copy of the Athletic Code, understand the terms of the athletic Code and agree to abide by its terms and conditions.

Attendance is required at the "Right to Know" meeting.

ATTENDANCE

An athlete must be in school by the beginning of the 4th period on the day of an activity to be eligible for any activity on that day unless the absence has been pre-approved in writing by the principal. Two exceptions may be made by the Athletic Director: (1) for a medical absence pre-arranged, or (2) for a death in the athlete's family. An athlete who has one or more truanancies or who has been suspended from school may be suspended from participation in athletic activities by administration. Bottom line is we expect the student athletes to attend all of their classes, especially on the days of events.

Any student who is absent from school on a Friday before a Saturday event may be withheld from Saturday activities at the sole discretion of the Athletic Director and/or administration.

APPEALS PROCESS

COACH-ATHLETIC DIRECTOR- PRINCIPAL- SUPERINTENDENT

Step 1: An informal discussion will be conducted between all the parties involved as arranged by the athletic director.

Step 2: Upon written appeal to the principal by the athlete, a meeting of the Athletic Council will organize. The appeal must be made within five (5) school days of receiving the penalty, and the Athletic Council will meet within five (5) school days after receiving the appeal. A decision will be given immediately unless extenuating circumstances exist.

Step 3: The Athletic Council will hear and make the final decision. The Athletic Council shall only review the process used to assess a penalty and shall not alter the penalty to less than the minimum or more than the maximum, as spelled out in the policy. A majority vote will be final.

The Athletic council will consist of the principal, athletic director, and varsity coaches.

It is our goal to resolve any issues at the source, and that begins with the athlete and their coach. If action is not satisfactory, then we will involve the athletic director. Then the principal, then finally the superintendent.

REPORTING OF VIOLATIONS

Alleged violations shall be reported in writing (signed and dated) to the athletic director or principal. An acceptable source in reporting violations is defined as an adult (age 18 or older) who is not currently an enrolled student from Stephenson Area Schools or other K-12 school districts. The person must have proof that he/she was first-hand witness to the alleged violation. He/she must be willing to meet with the Athletic Council, the accused, and the accused's parent/guardian

Hearsay or information not reported in the above manner will not constitute grounds for application of penalties. If, however, after reasonable efforts to investigate have been made by school officials, the accused athlete admits to the violation or their parent/guardian are convinced of the athlete's guilt, action will be taken. Likewise, materials obtained from police agencies or other governmental sources will constitute a basis for action to be taken

TRAVEL ON THE BUS WITH THE TEAM

All athletes shall travel to athletic events and return home from athletic events with the team on which the athlete competes by use of school-approved means of transportation. A written waiver of this rule may be issued by an administrator upon advance written request of an athlete's parent or guardian. The athlete will be allowed to leave with only the parent/guardian; including grandparents, aunt, uncle, and provided the responsible party appears and accepts custody of the athlete. In no case shall a waiver be issued unless the alternate means of transportation anticipated by the waiver will be provided by the parent, guardian, grandparent, aunt or uncle. Oral requests shall not be honored and oral permissions shall not be valid.

MEDICAL INSURANCE THROUGH THE MHSAA

The Michigan High School Athletic Association provides all of its member school with a Catastrophic Accident Medical Insurance Policy which pays up to \$500,000 for medical expenses left unpaid by other insurance after a deductible of \$25,000 per claim in paid medical expenses has been met. All students enrolled in grades 6th through 12th at MHSAA member schools who are eligible under MHSAA rules and participating in practices or competition in sports under the MHSAA's jurisdiction are covered by this policy for injuries related to their athletic participation.

This new program intends to assure that all eligible student athletes in MHSAA member schools in grades 6th through 12th, male and female, in all levels of all sports under the jurisdiction of the MHSAA, receive prompt and professional attention for head injury events, even if the child is uninsured or under insured. Accident medical deductibles and co-pays left unpaid by other policies are reimbursed under this program to the limits of the policy.

SPORTSMANSHIP IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Good sportsmanship is the attitude and behavior that exemplifies positive support for the athletic programs of Stephenson High School. People involved in all facets of the athletic programs are expected to demonstrate respect for others and display good sportsmanship.

It is essential that student athletes, coaches, parents, student groups and fans in general are constantly reminded that **GOOD SPORTS ARE WINNERS!** People seriously believe sportsmanship to be an important issue of concern in athletics. Positive experiences do not occur by chance, rather they are a result of the educational structure, the right prospective, the right leadership and the true understanding of sportsmanship.

Good sportsmanship is not merely a campaign, it is the essence of what educational athletics is about. Let all of us who have the opportunity promote the ideals of sportsmanship so that today's student and tomorrow's citizens may build a better society.

ACCEPTABLE and UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

Remember that young people play sports for their enjoyment, not to entertain you.

Do not have unrealistic expectations and understand that doing one's best is as important as winning. Understand the ridiculing an athlete for making a mistake is not acceptable behavior.

Respect the official's decisions and encourage all participants to do the same.

Respect and show appreciation for the coaches and understand that they have given their time to provide sport activities for our young people.

Encourage athletes and coaches to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.

Show respect for our teams opponents and realize there would be no game without them.

Do not use bad language and harass athletes, coaches, officials or other spectators.

Always show good sportsmanship since young people learn best by example.