

STOW-MUNROE FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

The Stow-Munroe Falls City School District recognizes that interscholastic athletics are an integral part of the total educational process. Interscholastic athletics engage students in meaningful experiences, which enable them to acquire the necessary tools of academic achievement, character, teamwork, and commitment, which make the educational experience more rewarding.

SPORTSMANSHIP:

The Stow-Munroe Falls Board of Education, school administration, and coaches support the ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play. The Stow-Munroe Falls Athletic Department believes that high standards of behavior, scholarship, and citizenship are important to a sound athletic program.

In preparing for and participating in athletic competitions, students, parents/guardians, employees, volunteers, and spirit/booster groups shall promote sportsmanship and foster good character by teaching, enforcing, advocating, and modeling these six core ethical principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship as adopted by the Character Counts Committee of the Stow-Munroe Falls City School District.

The Stow-Munroe Falls District is committed to providing an environment that promotes good sportsmanship. Students, parents/guardians, employees, and volunteers will be subject to disciplinary action for improper conduct related to this policy. If so warranted, specific charges shall also be filed with the appropriate law enforcement agency.

PARTICIPATION:

It must be remembered that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege not a right that will be regulated. Students volunteering to participate in interscholastic athletics must assume the responsibilities of this privilege and are required to meet expectations beyond those set for non-participants. Participants should follow all school rules and conduct themselves appropriately as good citizens of the school and the community.

DURATION OF POLICY:

This policy will be in effect twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, for the entire year. It will be in effect for athletic activities that commence before the beginning of the school year or extend beyond the school year when students are representing the school.

Prior to participating in SMFHS athletics, the student and his/her guardian must sign and submit the Athletic Code of Conduct to his/her coach. The signed form, on file in the Athletic Office, will be in effect for the duration of the student's athletic participation at SMFHS (grades 9-12).

CONSEQUENCES:

The consequences listed below for violations of this policy are in addition to any consequence(s) that will be applied for offenses that also violate the Stow-Munroe Falls High School Code of Conduct.

Consequences for students involved in athletics will be in effect for the sport in which the student is currently participating. If, at the time of the violation, the student is not involved in a sport, the consequences will carry over to the next sport in which the student participates. Also, any consequence that cannot be fully served due to the end of the current sport's season will be carried over and served during the next sport's season in which the student participates.

DRUG and ALCOHOL USE/ABUSE:

Students involved in athletics will not at any time possess, use, sell, offer to sell, deliver, conceal, consume, or be under the influence of any drugs of abuse including but not limited to alcoholic beverages, inhalants, anabolic steroids, or any drugs of abuse and any counterfeit drugs of abuse. Counterfeit drugs of abuse include any substance that is directly or indirectly represented to be a drug of abuse.

Participants will not possess, use, sell, and offer to sell, deliver, or conceal any instruments or paraphernalia for use with drugs. Use of drugs authorized by a medical prescription from a licensed physician will not be considered in violation of this rule. The local police department will be notified of all violations of this provision.

For the penalty to be counted, a student must participate in a full season (first official start date through end of season) of that sport, and the penalty may be carried over into the next sport season.

First Violation

A first offense will result in an immediate 25% denial of participation of the contests (season or tournament) in which a student is currently participating.

Second Violation

A second offense will result in an immediate denial of participation for 100% of the contests (season or tournament) in which a student participates for twelve (12) months. A recommendation will be made that the student seeks appropriate help.

Third Violation

A third offense will result in an immediate denial of participation from all activities for the duration of his/her enrollment at SMFHS. A recommendation will be made that the student seeks appropriate help.

TOBACCO PRODUCTS USE:

Students participating in athletics shall not use or have in their possession tobacco in any form. Tobacco products of any kind or tobacco paraphernalia will not be possessed, used, sold, or concealed. For the penalty to be counted, a student must participate in a full season (first official start date through end of season) of that sport, and the penalty may be carried over into the next sport season.

First Violation

The first offense will result in an immediate 20% denial of participation of the contests (season or tournament) in which a student is currently participating.

Second Violation

A second offense will result in an immediate denial of participation for 50% of the contest (season or tournament) in which a student participates.

Third Violation

A third offense will result in an immediate denial of participation from all athletics in which a student participates for twelve (12) months.

ENGAGING IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITY or VIOLATION OF CIVIL LAW:

Actions such as disorderly conduct, fighting, destroying property, stealing, and hazing will result in disciplinary action. Consultation between the coach, athletic administrator, principal, and school resource officer will be conducted before a consequence is issued. Recognizing the varying degrees of violations (misdemeanor vs. felony), consequences for involvement will result in a minor reprimand to the denial of participation for one calendar year, depending on the nature of the offense.

SELF-REFERRAL POLICY:

A student seeking assistance for dealing with a drug, alcohol, or tobacco problem (by self-referral and prior to any violations either at school or in the community), should see a school administrator or the athletic administrator and appropriate direction and help would be given. The student will not be penalized from participation in athletics by seeking assistance.

ACTIONS UNBECOMING A STOW-MUNROE FALLS HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETE:

Any action unbecoming of a SMFHS student will be brought to the attention of a principal, athletic administrator, or head coach. This group will determine a course of action, which may include anything from a verbal warning to permanent denial of participation depending upon the offense.

These unbecoming actions include, but are not limited to, offenses while a student engages in **social networking**—communicating by email, instant messaging, phone texting, and use of online websites such as Facebook, MySpace, YouTube, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

Also, other actions such as improper language, lying, making obscene gestures, harassment, and insubordination will result in disciplinary action.

A SMFHS student must uphold the following guidelines:

Attendance

A student must attend school the last half of the school day and meet ½ of the academic requirements to participate or play in a game that afternoon or evening. The building principal or athletic administrator may waive this because of extenuating circumstances.

Out-of-School Suspension

A student may not participate, practice, or play during the duration a suspension.

Eligibility

A student must remain scholastically eligible as prescribed by the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the Stow-Munroe Falls Board of Education.

Team Standards

A student must adhere to curfews, dress and grooming standards, and other expectations that may be established by the coaches. Failure to adhere to these standards may result in disciplinary action.

Transportation

Participants must travel to and from contests in transportation provided by the school district. Exceptions to this rule will be made only when a written request to travel with a parent/guardian is made 24—hours prior to the trip and approved by the athletic administrator.

ATHLETIC CODE of CONDUCT

THIS CODE OF CONDUCT MUST BE SIGNED AND ON FILE BEFORE A STUDENT CAN PARTICIPATE IN ANY ATHLETIC ACTIVITY.

I have read and understand the SMFHS Athletic Code of Conduct. By my signature, I agree to accept this document and be subject to the regulations contained herein. Please detach the signature section and return to your coach.

Student's Name (PRINT)

Sport

Student's Signature

Date

I have read and understand the policy stated above and I am witness to my son's/daughter's signature. This signed form will be in effect for the duration of the student's athletic participation at SMFHS (grades 9—12).

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date