

Athletic Handbook

For parents and students

of:

Sport and Medical Sciences Academy



Home of the Tigers

Principal: Mr. John P. Laverty

Assistant Principal: Mr. Joseph F. Kopf

Dean of Students: Mr. Jose Colon

Athletic Facilitator: Ms. Heidi Schmidt

Athletic Handbook

of
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This handbook is intended to answer some of the basic questions concerning the Interscholastic Athletic Program at Sport and Medical Sciences Academy. It should serve as an outline of the program requirements for athletics.

All students and parents at Sport and Medical Sciences Academy who are in the Interscholastic Athletic Program have received and signed off on this handbook. We ask that all parents and students read it carefully in order to understand both the opportunities and the responsibilities associated with involvement in the athletic program. If there is something in this handbook you do not understand, please bring it to the attention of the athletic facilitator.

Remember, participation in our interscholastic athletic program is a **privilege** and not a **right**.

SMSA's Four Core Beliefs

Discipline

Respect

Dedication

Responsibility

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Revised 9/6/11

Part I: Introduction

“Glory days well they’ll pass you by
Glory days in the wink of a young girl’s eye
Glory days, glory days”

Bruce Springsteen

Message From the Principal

Dear Athletes and Parents:

There is a reason why they call the four years of participation in high school sports as the “Glory Days”. There is a reason why in twenty, thirty or even forty years from now when you and your SMSA friends get together that you’ll remember a single play, a three point shot or a game winning goal. You’ll remember a team mate and you’ll laugh and you’ll remember the “Glory Days”

Having the privilege to participate in high school sports can be the most exciting, exhilarating and most memorable moments of your life. We at SMSA believe that a healthy mind and healthy body are mutually beneficial and that this axiom will be borne out in the classrooms and on the sporting fields at SMSA. We want our students to be active, we want you to participate, and we want you to compete in the classroom and on the playing field. Seize the opportunity; do not let it “pass you by”

The Sport and Medical Sciences Academy has extremely high expectations for our students in both academics and athletics. We are proud of our students’ accomplishments both in the classroom and on the athletic playing fields. We take pride in our sportsmanship and the great role models our students portray as athletes everyday.

This handbook is a compilation of facts and information which I hope you will find valuable as an athlete or a parent of an athlete at SMSA. I ask that each parent read this handbook with his/her son/daughter and become familiar with every page. Please pay special attention to the section on eligibility and strict enforcement to adherence to these rules.

Students, I hope to see you on the playing fields and practice fields. Parents, I hope to see you and have short discussions with you as spectators at our games. Remember, You are SMSA!

You are the most important reason we open our doors in the morning and why our school is so successful. I am counting on you to be a great role model of great character for our younger students to emulate both on and off the field.

Please enjoy this school year. Continue to push for high academic achievement in the classroom, as well as outstanding athletic accomplishments on the playing field. Let’s go Tigers!

Sincerely,

Mr. John Laverty
Sport and Medical Sciences Academy, Principal

Message From the Athletic Facilitator

Dear Parents and Student-Athletes:

This handbook defines what it means to be a participant in SMSA athletic program, either as a student-athlete, coach, or parent. Athletic opportunities are a privilege. By reading this handbook and signing the commitment page in the back, you are agreeing to the standard procedure. Student-athletes will not be able to compete until they and at least one parent have attended a parent meeting with the coach.

Participation in sports is a significant part of a child's development. However, academic achievement, school conduct and study habits take precedence.

The purpose of the SMSA athletic department is to maintain a broad-based program that will afford all students with athletic interest and opportunity for safe participation in the sport(s) of their choice. In order for us to be successful in the pursuit of athletic achievement and the character training of young persons, the athletic handbook must be understood and agreed upon between the school, the student-athlete, and parents.

Thank you for your involvement and commitment to our school and athletic program. I look forward with great anticipation to a successful athletic season. My expectation is that all student-athletes will seek to work hard to grow and strive for excellence.

Sincerely,

Heidi Schmidt, Athletic Facilitator

Athletic Philosophy

The sport teams of our athletic program shall provide an atmosphere whereby good sportsmanship will be promoted by players, coaches, parents and spectators. Within the framework of a team situation, our players will realize and develop a sense of fair play, sound fundamentals, cooperation, teamwork, competitive spirit, sportsmanship, and a pride in both themselves and in our school. Through participation in athletics, there should be feelings of self-worth and enjoyment for both players and coaches.

Interscholastic athletics can play an important role in the learning and growth process. Athletes encourage the acceptance of responsibility to self, to team, and to school. They encourage good physical health, good personal habits, expose our athletes to difficult lessons and offer an opportunity to realize success. All of these experiences are desirable in the balanced growth of an individual.

The interscholastic athletic program should be conducted in accordance with the existing Board of Education policies, rules, and regulations. While the Board of Education may take pride in winning, it does not condone and discourages all pressures that would tend to neglect good sportsmanship and good mental health. At all times the athletic program must be conducted in such a way as to justify it as an educational activity.

Leadership in athletic programs should be of the highest quality. Measurement of leadership success should not solely be in terms of a won/loss record but rather in the character development factors that are an outgrowth of the athletic program. At all times, the athletic program should place foremost the total educational curriculum as primary. The athletic program should constantly strive for the development of well-rounded individuals capable of becoming contributing members of society.

Statement of Purpose

A comprehensive and balanced interscholastic athletic program is an integral part of the total educational process of each student-athlete. Our student-athletes must be willing to accept the responsibility to self, to team, and to school. They must also demonstrate self-discipline, emotional controls and good sportsmanship. The student-athlete will be given the opportunities and experiences to develop healthy self-esteem, physical conditioning, and sportsmanship through group participation and individual growth. Our student-athletes will further display ethical qualities and be capable of becoming productive members of society.

Remember, participation in interscholastic athletics at Sport and Medical Sciences Academy School is a privilege, not a right.

Goals

The goals of our Sport and Medical Sciences Academy Athletic Department include:

- To develop respect for others coupled with an understanding of spirit and cooperation.
- To develop athletic skills in both an individual and in a team setting.
- To develop the total student-athlete which focuses on leadership, self-discipline, self-motivation, a strong work ethic, sportsmanship, and high academic achievement.
- To develop each student's self-esteem with a feeling of well-being and worth.
- To provide coaches, who can impart their knowledge, skill, and strategies of their sport, and act as great, positive role models for our students.

- To provide a means for our athletes to grow physically, cognitively, and emotionally within a supervised athletic setting.
- To provide a focus of interest on programs for students, faculty, and our community that will generate a feeling of unity and school pride.
- To provide a rewarding athletic experience for students.

Part II: General Information

Athletic Advisory

Sport and Medical Sciences Academy By-Laws and Standing Rules

Article I. Name:
Sport and Medical Sciences Academy Athletic Council

Article II Objective of the Organization:

1. Review, develop, and formulate athletic policies and standards in order to advise the athletic facilitator on matters of athletic interest and to recommend such policies and standards for adoption.
2. Promote responsiveness, representation and communication within the academic community.

Article III. Membership:

1. Membership shall consist of (a) the athletic facilitator (b) one representative from each team (c) one representative of the club or intramural activities (chosen by lottery) (d) an administrator (e) an open chair that could be occupied by staff members or students as an issue arises.
2. a. Membership will be on a year to year basis
b. Terms shall begin on July 1 of each year and end on June 30th of the following year.

Article IV. Officers and their election:

During the June meeting of each year, members of the council shall nominate and elect a chair, vice-chair, secretary, and treasurer. The chair shall be a faculty member excluding the athletic facilitator.

Article V. Meetings:

Meetings shall be held at least once a month during the academic year. Meeting will be held on the third Monday of each month at 2:30 P.M. If school is closed on that day the meeting will be moved to the fourth Monday.

Article VI. Standing Rules:

1. Standing committees: Committee members shall be appointed by the chair and may include both council members and others by invitation.
 - Banquets and Awards
 - Fundraising
 - Eligibility and Policy
 - Others as needed
2. Rules of Order: Robert's Rules of Order
3. Order of Business: The chair shall develop the agenda with input from members of the council and/or members of the Sport and Medical Sciences Academy Community.
 - Agenda for a council meeting shall be distributed at least seven days before the meeting.
 - Minutes of a council meeting shall be distributed within seven days following the meeting.
 - Agenda and minutes shall be distributed to members of the Sport and Medical Sciences Academy administration, faculty and staff.

Athletic Awards

The following sports will award varsity letters based upon:

A. Athletes will be issued the following awards each year for participation on a team.

1. Junior varsity – JV Pin
2. Varsity -
 - a. 1st varsity award – Large letter and sport pin
 - b. 2nd varsity award - Gold bar
 - c. 3rd varsity award – Gold bar
 - d. 4th varsity award – Gold bar

* A certificate will be awarded to all athletes who complete a season.

B. Criteria for awards

1. JV pin – an athlete who participates and completes a JV sports program
2. Large letter –
 - a. The athlete is a member in good standing of the varsity team at the end of the season.
 - b. Volleyball – Participates in 50% of games
 - c. Soccer – Participates in 50% of the seasons playing periods
 - d. Cross Country – Scores in 50% of the meets
 - e. Football – Participates in 50% of quarters
 - f. Cheerleading – Participates in 50% of games
 - g. Basketball – Participates in 50% of quarters
 - h. Indoor Track/Outdoor Track – Scores 12 pts. per season
 - i. Baseball – Participates in 50% of innings played
 - j. Softball – Participates in 50% of innings played

CAS-CIAC Scholar-Athlete

One male and one female graduating senior in good standing will be selected to become NFHHS' CAS-CIAC Scholar-Athlete. Selection is based upon the following criteria:

- A cumulative GPA of 3.5 or more using a 4.0 scale.
- Participation in a CIAC sponsored varsity sport in Connecticut for a minimum of two years.
- Outstanding school and community service.
- Display of high levels of integrity, self-discipline, and courage with personal standards which serve as a model to others.

SMSA Student- Athletes Code of Conduct

Interscholastic athletic competition should demonstrate high standards of ethics and sportsmanship and promote the development of good character and other important life skills. The highest potential of sports is achieved when participants are committed to pursuing victory with honor. This Code applies to all student-athletes involved in interscholastic sports at SMSA.

1. I understand that is a privilege to participate in athletics.
2. I understand that I represent myself, my family, my school and will conduct myself in a positive manner at all times.
3. I understand that I must adhere to all school rules at all times.
4. I understand that I must meet the academic standards set for all athletes in order to participate in athletics.
5. I understand that I must adhere to all rules at all times for athletes set by the school Athletic Facilitator.
6. I understand that I must adhere to all rules at all times set down by my coaches.
7. I understand that if I cut a class I will be suspended from the next contest and further cuts will result in indefinite suspension and/or removal from the team.
8. I understand that receiving a school suspension in school or out, on two different occasions, will result in my removal from any team for the rest of the season.
9. I understand that receiving a school suspension, in school or out, three different times during the school year will result in my removal from all athletic teams for the remainder of the year.
10. I understand that use or possession of any tobacco, alcoholic or drug substance is strictly forbidden and will result in the immediate removal from the team.
11. I understand that my responsibility is to be a fine young person, a good student, a competitive athlete and in that order.
12. I understand that an administrator can remove me from a team and/or from all athletic programs at any time if they decide the situation warrants it.

Spectator Code of Conduct

1. To cheer for my team, not against my opponent
2. To be ever mindful that high school athletics are played basically for the enjoyment of the players.
3. To respect the decisions of game, officials, realizing that their job is extremely difficult.
4. To withhold caustic criticism of players and coaches that would later be embarrassing to both yourself and the person criticized.
5. To be the kind of fan who leaves the opposing crowd with a feeling of envy; envious of enthusiasm and class.
6. To appreciate the efforts of the boys and girls that have worked many hours before the actual contests; to understand that their involvement in the activity is a most important accomplishment.

Detentions/Suspensions

If a student is given a detention (by either the classroom teacher or by an administrator), that student must serve the detention on the day it is assigned. He/she must not attend practice until the detention is served. Upon completion of the detention, the student may attend practice. The coach will make the determination if the student will practice or play with the team following the detention. This is a coach's decision.

Students under suspension (inside or outside) may not attend any school-sponsored function until the end of the last day of inside detention and the following day after an outside suspension is completed. Athletes who under any suspension are not allowed on school grounds including practice facilities without the prior permission of a building administrator.

Due Process (Solving Conflicts)

Participation in the interscholastic athletic program is a privilege, not a right. Students who do not abide by the SMSA school rules, NCCC, CIAC regulations and coaches' rules, will be excluded from that activity for a period of time or for the entire season. In the event an athlete violates any rule or regulation set forth by the district, he/she will be subject to the penalties as designated by the coach, the athletic facilitator, or the principal. If a parent disagrees with the penalty due to a rule violation, or if the parent has a concern with the coach, the parent may request due process. Due process involves the following steps:

1. The student-athlete or parent/guardian must first seek to resolve the problem or concern through direct contact with the coach. The coach must strive to solve the problem.
2. If the concern is not resolved with Step 1, it must be addressed in writing to the Principal of the school with a copy to the Athletic facilitator and a copy to the coach. The Principal and the Athletic facilitator will strive to solve the problem.
3. If the concern is not resolved with Steps 1 and 2, both the Superintendent of Schools and the Principal must be notified in writing. The Superintendent and the Principal will further strive to solve the problem.
4. Upon failure to resolve the concern with Steps 1, 2, and 3, the concern must be addressed in writing to the Hartford Board of Education for a final disposition.

All parties will abide by this due process.

Student – Athlete Duties and Responsibilities

It is important for students and parents to realize that participation in the Interscholastic Athletic Program is a privilege granted to individuals who possess the ability, attitude, and desire to uphold the highest esteem for the student body, the school district, Hartford and surrounding communities. The opportunity to participate in the athletic program is extended to all students who are willing to assume the responsibilities to achieve academic success, good citizenship, and sportsmanship. Each athlete is expected to display high standards of behavior, exemplify good sportsmanship, show respect for others, dress neatly and be well groomed. The school reserves the right to revoke the privilege of participation if the participant does not comply with the rules, regulations, and expectations in this handbook,

Student athletes will be expected to:

- Conform to the SMSA, NCCC and CIAC eligibility rules (including medical and academic requirements.)
- Act in a responsible manner and obey the rules and regulations in the SMSA Athletic Handbook.
- Conform to the specific laws established by the local, state, and federal governments.
- Attend and be on time for all practices and meets held during both the regular school session and vacations (see “Vacations” section).
- Abide by all athletic training rules.
- Represent our school with dignity and pride.
- Travel to and from contests on the team bus accompanied by the coach (unless pre-approved by the athletic facilitator).
- Conform to the proper dress code set forth by the team on game day.

Role of the Athletic Team Captain

Each coach shall set up criteria and be responsible for the selection of captains. Captains will:

- Be leaders on their teams and in the school community.
- Foster team and athletic programs’ spirit and pride.
- Set an example of academic integrity in the classroom.
- Follow policies and procedures as outlined in this handbook.
- Exemplify honesty, leadership, compassion, and integrity.

Note: Team captains, who are suspended from school for violating school policy, may have their title removed by the head coach. Guidelines for selection of team captains will be the domain of the team head coach.

Rules and Regulations for Athletes

The opportunity to participate in the athletic program is extended to all students who are willing to assume certain responsibilities. All athletes must realize that they are held to high standards and expectations and that student's athlete must be willing to assume certain responsibilities that accompany this privilege. Students are expected to have with respect and have concern for the rights, safety and welfare of all individuals. They are expected to display high standards of behavior, exemplify good sportsmanship, and meet all SMSA, NCCC, and CIAC eligibility requirements.

The following rules and regulations will apply to all athletes participating in interscholastic athletics at SMSA.

1. Attendance

- Student's athletes must attend and be on time to all practices and games.
- Students may not leave a practice of a scheduled game/contest to participate on a recreational team. A commitment to the high school program is the responsibility of the athlete.
- Student athletes must attend classes on the day of a contest. Students must be in school for four consecutive hours in order to be eligible to participate in practices or games that day. For weekend or holiday contests a student athlete must have attended and been eligible the previous school day. Either the principal or the athletic facilitator can make exceptions. The request must be made 48 hours prior to the absence excluding any extenuating circumstances. Students who are dismissed early (due to an illness) may not return that day to either practice or to participate in interscholastic athletics.
- Absence from team activities due to vacations (see vacation policy).
- Unexcused absences will result in the following:
 - Absent one game = suspension from the next game.
 - Absent from practice prior to the day of a game = the athlete will not start in the next contest.
 - Excessive unexcused absences may result in removal from the team.

2. Drug/Alcohol Prohibited

Drug or alcohol consumption is forbidden. Any documented use of or possession of drugs/drug paraphernalia/alcohol by a student will constitute grounds for dismissal from the team and full school discipline as outlined in the student handbook.

3. Smoking and Chewing Tobacco Prohibited

The use of tobacco products is illegal on campus. Student athletes are prohibited from using or possessing any tobacco products on campus, during transport to an away event, or at the away game site. A student/athlete who fails to abide by school policy will be subject to dismissal from the team and face school discipline as outlined in the student handbook.

4. Anabolic Steroids Prohibited

The use of steroid drugs by any SMSA athlete is not permitted. Steroid drugs, growth hormone, and testosterone are not permitted. Staff members and coaches are asked to report knowledge of any usage by any member of the student body to the principal or to the athletic facilitator. Use or possession by a member of the team will result in immediate dismissal from the team.

5. Sportsmanship

SMSA athletes are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship both on and off the playing field. Each coach will discuss good sportsmanship with team members at the beginning of the season. Emphasis will be placed on courtesy and respect for one another and for members of opposing teams. All athletes and coaches will strive to maintain good sportsmanship conduct.

6. Fighting/Assault Rule

Any student athlete who initiates or participates in a fight during the course of an athletic contest, in which his/her team is participating, will be immediately removed from the contest and subject to further discipline, including suspension from the next game. If there is a second officially recognized violation of this rule, the student will be dismissed from the team. Any student-athlete who physically assaults an official, coach, or a spectator will immediately be dismissed from the team for the remainder of the season. An arrest may result from this action.

7. Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Unsportsmanlike conduct on or off the field of competition may result in an athlete's dismissal from the team and may jeopardize future participation in athletics. The coach, the athletic facilitator, and the principal will make the final decision in this matter cooperatively.

Any student-athlete ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct will not be permitted to participate in the next contest (CIAC by law 4.6).

The following behaviors will be considered serious violations of the SMSA athletic code and policies and may result in suspension from the team and/or disciplined as outlined in the SMSA student handbook.

- Civil law infractions
- Theft or malicious destruction of individual, private or school property.
- Infraction of school rules requiring administrative action.
- Misconduct by an athlete that is potentially detrimental to the athletic program, school, or school district.
- Profanity or verbal abuse from any athlete while representing a SMSA athletic program at practice and/or games, to or from an event, and as a spectator at other rival high school athletic contests.
- Observe gestures including "mooning"

8. Hazing

Hazing means committing an act of physical or emotional harm against a student, or coercing a student into committing an act, that creates a risk of physical or emotional harm to a person in order for the student to be initiated into or affiliate with a student organization. Hazing includes:

- Physical brutality (i.e. whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, or placing a harmful substance in/on the body).
- Sleep deprivation
- Exposure to weather
- Confinement in a restricted area
- Activities that subject the student to mental or physical harm.
- Consumption of any food, liquid or substance that subjects that student to an unreasonable risk of harm.

- Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student (subjects the student to ostracism, stress, shame embarrassment or humiliation).
- Any activity that causes the student to perform a task that involves violation of state or federal law or of school district policies or regulations.

Hazing is not permitted or tolerated at SMSA. Students cannot engage in any hazing activity at any time either on or away from school property. Coaches are responsible and obligated to inform their teams on this policy. A student/athlete who is involved in any hazing incident will subject to immediate team dismissal, face disciplinary actions according to the uniform code of discipline and /or criminal charges.

9. Verbal and Physical Abuse

All team members are expected to treat opponents, officials, coaches, parents and spectators with respect. Any abuse by student/athletes may result in the immediate suspension from the team. Taunting will not be allowed.

10. Responsible Behavior/Travel

Responsible behavior is expected by athletes at all times, especially in the locker room and on the bus. Student/athletes must travel to and from contests on the team bus and be accompanied by the coach.

11. Equipment/Uniform Responsibility

Each student is responsible for the equipment issued to him/her. The equipment must be properly cared for by the student/athlete to whom it is issued. At the end of the season, clean uniforms must be turned in. It is the financial responsibility of the student/athlete to ensure that equipment is returned at end of the season or departure from team. If the equipment and/or uniforms are not returned or are damaged due to misuse, the student must pay the replacement cost of new equipment and/or uniforms issued to him/her. Failure to pay for lost/damaged equipment will result in accountability. Students with accountabilities will not receive report cards or diplomas and they are ineligible for play in the next sport season until the accountability has been cleared.

Any student possessing school equipment, which was not issued directly to that student, faces disciplinary action, which may prevent further participation in the athletic program. The possession of such equipment may be perceived as theft and penalties of theft may be enforced according to the student handbook.

Student athletes must wear issued high school equipment and uniforms. Teams, booster club, or parent groups should not purchase any uniforms without clearance from the athletic facilitator and/or the board of education.

The school reserves the right to revoke the privilege of any participant to participate in a sport who does not conduct himself/herself in an acceptable manner. If an individual feels that he/she is unable to abide by the rules in this handbook, and the coach's rules, he/she should not register to play on an athletic team.

Violation of rules will result in discipline. Discipline may include but not limited to:

- Loss of a starting position
- Game and/or practice suspension

- Team suspension
- Community service to offset an infraction
- Removal from team
- Other...

Expectations of Parents/Guardians in the Athletic Program

- Please be a positive role model.
- Attend games. Cheer for both your son/daughter and our team in a positive manner.
- Be positive with your son/daughter: let them know that they are accomplishing something by simply being part of a team.
- Be positive and support the coaches, officials and other athletes. We are all a part of one team.
- Be an active participant in your son/daughter academics.
- As a fan, you are encouraged to show your vocal support at games in a positive manner. If become belligerent or arrogant towards our players, coaches, and members of opposing teams you will be asked to leave.
- Insist that your son/daughter respect team rules, school rules, games officials, and demonstrates sportsmanship. Self-respect begins with self-control.
- Encourage your son/daughter to maintain a positive self-image by believing in themselves.
- Remember that the coaching staff is part of your son/daughter's development because he/she is caring and is an experienced professional.
- At competitions you represent your son/daughter, SMSA and the community.
- All parents/guardians must view the CIAC sportsmanship video prior to season start.

Early Dismissal of Students from School

Team members may be dismissed early from class before the close of school at the request of the Athletic facilitator. Administration will have the ultimate authority on whether an individual student-athlete can be excused early from class for an athletic event (based upon academic achievement). Early dismissal will be scheduled as close as possible to the end of the school day. The student will be held accountable for all work missed.

Eligibility

RULES OF ELIGIBILITY AND CONTROL FOR BOYS AND GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS IN CONNECTICUT (ARTICLE IX -- CIAC By-laws)

As Adopted by

THE CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE, INC.

Effective July 1, 2011

These rules apply in every athletic contest in all CIAC-controlled sports listed in Section VIII of this code in which a member school participates, regardless of opponent. These are minimal regulations of the CIAC. All levels of play of CIAC-controlled athletic contests including varsity, junior varsity, freshmen or sports clubs representing any member school in interscholastic competition shall conform to the eligibility rules of the CIAC. Athletic teams are made up entirely of boys or entirely of girls; or are as otherwise provided in Section IV, paragraph F.

I. SCHOLARSHIP

For purpose of this rule the term "unit" refers to the traditional Carnegie Unit. A Carnegie Unit is herein defined as "200 minutes of recitation during a period of five consecutive school days for an entire school year". Principals may equate any course offering with the Carnegie Unit, no matter what the scheduling pattern, by referring to the following: if a course is scheduled a minimum of 200 minutes during a period of five consecutive school days for a traditional nine-week marking period and awards at least 1/4 credit for that period, including independent study, that course should be considered one-quarter of a Carnegie Unit of work; mini-courses, tri-semester courses, alternative school programs, shared time programs, D.E., D.W.E., and other cooperative community programs must meet the minimum time and credit requirements above to be considered a quarter of a Carnegie Unit of work.

A. To be eligible for fall sports a student must have received credit toward graduation at the close of the school year preceding the contest in at least four (4) Carnegie Units of work or its equivalent for which he or she has not previously received credit. "Equivalent" is any number of courses which are equal to one Carnegie Unit. Credit must be earned during the same academic year.

Through the PPT process or Section 504 meeting, the principal will make a determination on what constitutes an identified student' equivalent of four (4) Carnegie Units of credit for athletic purposes. To this end, the principal shall rely on the student's most recent IEP or Section 504 Plan to make the determination. A student enrolling in ninth grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of the previous academic achievement. Thereafter, in order to be eligible, a student in grades 9-12 must meet the requirements found in Rule I.B.

B. A student cannot at any time represent a school unless taking at least four quarter Carnegie Units of work or its equivalent. During the school year a student must have received a passing mark in at least four (4) quarter Carnegie Units of work or its equivalent at the end of the regular marking period preceding the contest. Student eligibility will be determined for all students on the date that report cards are distributed or on the fourteenth calendar day following the end of the marking period, whichever comes first. No Carnegie Unit or equivalent for which the student has already received credit shall be included in those required by this rule.

C. If computer, arena, or hand scheduling assigns an athlete less than four quarter Carnegie Units or equivalent of work in a marking period, that student is ineligible unless additional courses needed are added to the schedule.

D. Scholastic failures cannot be made up for eligibility purposes in any manner until the next report, except that credits earned during the summer by any regularly approved board of education procedure will be accepted for the purpose of determining the eligibility of students desiring to participate in the athletic program of the school in September. Scholastic incompletes must be made up within ten (10) school days following the date that student eligibility was determined for the respective marking period as defined above. Incomplete grades are not to be considered as passing grades. It should be understood that the above regulations are minimal and do not prohibit a school from establishing more rigid eligibility standards. Marking period grades (not semester grades) are to be used in determining scholastic eligibility to participate in interscholastic

athletics during any given marking period. To be eligible for fall sports, a student must have received credit toward graduation of four (4) Carnegie Units of work for which he has not previously received credit. The final academic grade average determines fall eligibility. Semester courses or mini courses completed earlier in the school year may be counted toward the four (4) units used in determining eligibility for fall season. Year-end failures may be made up through successful completion of LEA approved summer school work in courses failed.

II. STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

A. The student shall be a member of that school in grade 9, 10, 11 or 12. A graduate from any secondary school is ineligible. In local public school districts where grade 10-12 high schools exist, 9th grade students in a public JH/MS school, with local public school district approval, may participate at the local public school, where grades 10-12 exist. No student below grade 9 is allowed to practice or participate in any CIAC controlled sport. All situations which are not covered by this rule are to be referred in writing to the CIAC Board of Control prior to participation. HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS: Eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics is not to be extended to any student whose program is not under the direct supervision of a CIAC member school. This prohibition includes any recognition by member schools of home schooling as school district sponsored "alternative programs." Alternative programs, for the purposes of interscholastic athletics, are only to be recognized if they are developed by and function under the direct control of the local school system to serve the educational needs of a targeted group of students. Such programming generally relates to modifications in existing courses or placement in an alternative school which a district may sponsor and is available to all eligible students. Student athletic participation at any state authorized public school of choice or any state authorized CHARTER, MAGNET, REGIONAL COOPERATIVE, INTER-DISTRICT SATELLITE SCHOOL STUDENTS: Eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics at the sending school or school from which he/she would normally matriculate is extended to any student when the school does not provide any interscholastic athletic program. **(1)** The above listed alternative schools must be state authorized. **(2)** The above listed alternative schools need not be members of CIAC in order for their athletes to be allowed to play for the sending (home) school. **(3)** The principal of the CIAC member school at which the athlete would normally matriculate has the right to make the decision on the acceptance of these students in his/her athletic programs. The CIAC will allow such participation. However, the CIAC member school must approve of such participation before an alternative school athlete can participate. **(4)** The CIAC member school which accepts students from state approved alternative schools will be fully responsible for determining their eligibility status. An ineligible player from an alternative school will have the same impact on the status of the team from which he/she plays as all other athletes. **(5)** The CIAC will evaluate the eligibility of an alternative school athlete in the same manner that it now handles all other athletes. Student athletes from the alternative school shall comply with all eligibility requirements of the sending school. Eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics at the sending school or school from which he/she would normally matriculate is NOT extended to any student when the receiving school does provide an interscholastic athletic program regardless of its offerings. However, choice programs housed in a member high school where academic programs and services are shared between the choice program and the member school and, the students who attend said programs receive their diploma from the host member high school, may participate in athletics in the high school in which their choice program is located. The student must have been in membership at a secondary school for at least twelve (12) school weeks immediately proceeding the time of participation, or regularly admitted from an elementary, middle, or junior high school within ten (10) school days from the opening of the succeeding school term. The time of summer vacation spent in summer school or private tutoring shall not be counted in the required twelve (12) weeks of school membership.

B. The student shall not have reached his or her twentieth (20th) birthday. A student-athlete will not be allowed to start a season or compete during a season in which his/her twentieth (20th) birthday falls. A student has eight (8) consecutive semesters or four (4) consecutive years of eligibility from the date of entry into the ninth grade to be eligible for interscholastic competition. **No student-athlete shall participate in the same branch of athletics more than for (4) seasons in grades 9-12 at any school.** Date of entry is defined as the first date of enrollment as a grade 9 student taking four (4) or more high school subjects. **(1)** Students who are not eligible or elect to not participate do not preserve additional semesters for use at a later time. That is, there is no fifth year of eligibility per se. **(2)** Once a student has attended 15 days or more, may apply through the

member school for consideration of a hardship waiver. Hardships involve serious documented medical situations where students are not able to attend school at all or become incapacitated. Injuries sustained in playing a sport do not constitute grounds for a medical hardship grant of an additional semester. Hardships will also be granted for a student who has been absent one or more semesters because of required military service. If a waiver is granted, the semester granted must be the same as the semester waived. Fall for fall, spring for spring. **(3)** The fact that a student has not participated for four seasons will not justify allowing such student to participate in interscholastic sports beyond the eighth semester after his or her entrance into the ninth grade. **(4)** This is an eight semester attendance rule i.e., eight semesters of time not eight semesters of participation or competition rule. **(5)** Exception: A student who interrupts his/her school career in order to participate in a CSIET approved foreign study program may have his/her eligibility extended for up to two semesters, provided the student does not participate out of country in sports he/she wishes to play upon his/her return, subject to approval by the CIAC. The implementation date was July 2006, affecting all students entering 9th grade in September 2006 and after.

C. A student who transfers from a school to a CIAC member school during grade 10-11, or 12 without at the same time changing legal residence to another school district or school service area, or satisfying at least one of the following requirements must complete at least one year (365 days) of approved membership before being eligible for interscholastic competition in the same sport in which he or she was a participant in the present or preceding season during grades 10, 11 or 12 on the junior varsity or varsity team at the last school the student attended. (Legal residence is defined as location of legal guardian.) **(1)** A student who transfers after not less than a 90 calendar day membership from a non-member school to a member school and resides with a parent or legal guardian and satisfies Rule IIA. **(2)** A student who is a ward of the court or state and is placed in another school district or school service area by court order. Guardianship other than court administered does not fulfill this requirement. **(3)** A foreign exchange student who is placed in a member school by an exchange program approved by CSIET. Also, a student not in an approved CSIET exchange program who has NOT participated in an organized sports program, equivalent to or on a higher level than CIAC high school programs. **(4)** A student who marries and establishes a new residence in another school district or school service area. **(5)** A student who transfers to another school because his or her school ceases to operate. **(6)** A student who transfers to another school as the result of a reorganization, consolidation or annexation of his/her school in the district where he/she resides. In school districts without a high school that tuitions out their students when a new option becomes available to all students in the district, in the first year only of the new option a student can transfer without loss of eligibility providing that transfer occurs at the start of the school year. Transfers during the school year will be subject to the transfer rule. **(7)** A student ordered transferred within a school system, for other than athletic purposes. by a board of education, or the governing body of a private or parochial school system. Transfer must take place within the same school system. **(8)** A student who, because of the divorce or separation of his/her parents or because of the death of a parent or legal guardian, moves into another school district or school service area or retains the same residence with one of the aforementioned parents and a parent(s) certifies the reason for the move as it relates to the divorce/separated parents or because of the death. For purposes of eligibility, transfer is permitted once per twelve month period which commences on the date of said transfer and must be approved by the CIAC Eligibility Committee before the student competes in interscholastic athletic competition. **(9)** A student eighteen (18) years or older who moves from one school district or school service area to another without being with a parent or parents and resides within the school district or school service area and complies with local board of education residency requirements will be eligible for participation. The transfer will be permitted once per twelve month period which commences on the date of said transfer and must be approved by the CIAC Eligibility Committee. **(10)** A student who completes the last grade available in the school system previously attended. **(11)** A student entering into a board of education approved exchange program between CIAC member schools for less than a full academic school year will retain interscholastic athletic eligibility with the sending school. **(12)** A student who transfers because the sending school discontinues a sport maintains athletic eligibility in any sport discontinued by the sending school, but is subject to the transfer rule in all sports not discontinued by the sending school. Such transfer will be permitted once per twelve month period commencing on the date of transfer and must be approved by the CIAC Eligibility Committee. **(13)** A special needs student, as identified by an IEP or 504 Plan, may transfer without loss of eligibility if the principal of the

sending school attests in writing that the school is unable to provide the support services necessary for the student's academic success. Such transfer will be permitted once per high school career and must be approved by the CIAC Eligibility Committee. **(14)** Athletes will be permitted to transfer once they enter grade 10 to participate in any public school open choice plan enacted by the State Legislature or any state authorized charter, regional, cooperative, inter-district satellite, magnet or other public school choice options. Transfers may only take place once during grades 10, 11, and 12 except that (a) students who choose to return to the school to which they would have been normally assigned by the board of education or would have been able to attend through established procedures will retain their eligibility, (b) if a new charter, regional cooperative, inter-district satellite, magnet or other public school open choice option receives state approval subsequent to the year of a transfer, the athlete may transfer to that school without loss of eligibility. **(15)** When for educational reasons and awaiting occupancy of a new residence a student enrolls at a new school at the beginning of a new year or semester, eligibility will begin on the date the family actually transfers residence. Approval must be granted by The CIAC Eligibility Committee and can occur not more than once during each school year. **(16)** When for educational reasons a parent or legal guardian moves to a new school district, the student, to gain eligibility at the new school without establishing a 365 day period of attendance, must transfer his/her enrollment simultaneously with the transfer of residence of parent or legal guardian, or no later than the beginning of the next school year. **(17)** A member school student returning from any foreign exchange program may resume interscholastic competition at the point of reentry without receiving credits towards graduation provided the student meets all other requirements relative to age, years of eligibility, etc. **(18) Hardship**-Eligibility may be granted to a transfer student who does not meet the CIAC transfer standard when sufficient evidence, as determined by the CIAC Eligibility Committee, is provided to show that it was necessary for the student to transfer because of unforeseen, unavoidable, or unusual circumstances including, but not limited to , broken home conditions, terminal or serious illness of parent or sibling, death of a parent or guardian, abandonment, loss of school accreditation, bankruptcy and/or loss of principal income of legal guardian(s), and provided the transfer was not for athletic reasons and there was no undue influence. Hardship is defined as an unforeseeable act, condition or event which may not reasonably and/or practically be avoided or corrected and which causes the imposition of a severe burden upon the student or his/her family. A hardship may be a situation which is unique to the student or his/her family which could not have been predicted, which does not apply to others in a similar setting, and over which the family has no control. **(19)** A student in grades 10, 11, or 12 who does not qualify for the transfer rule requirements¹ through 18 will be granted eligibility by application to the CIAC Eligibility Committee if the following are satisfactorily completed: After a period equal to at least 50% of the school's varsity schedule following date of enrollment (first day of attending classes) in the receiving school for the affected sport, or from the date of the first school contest after the date of enrollment, if entry is after the first allowable play date, eligibility will be granted to a student who has participated (i.e., actually played in a CIAC-approved contest) at the JV or varsity level of play at any time during the present or preceding year at the sending school, who does not otherwise qualify for any of the above exceptions and when both the sending and receiving school principals sign a CIAC transfer waiver form certifying to the best of their knowledge that the student has not transferred for athletic reasons.* If the season ends** before the athletes sit a period of time equal to at least 50% of the varsity schedule has been completed, any remaining days of ineligibility shall be satisfied from the first allowable play date of the present schools, regular season in that sport during the next school year unless he/she is a multi-sport athlete. In these cases, the remaining portion of the games days will be served successively.

To qualify for the provisions of this section, a student must be a member of the team during the season in which the 50% wait period is applied.

- * A transfer for athletic reasons is defined as but not limited to:
- a. Seeking a change to a new school due to inducement or recruitment to play a sport.
 - b. Seeking a superior athletic team.
 - c. Seeking relief due to a conflict with the philosophy or action of an administrator, teacher or coach relating to sports.
 - d. Seeking a team consistent with the student's athletic abilities.
 - e. Seeking a means to nullify punitive action by the sending school for athletic reasons.
 - f. Seeking to escape academic or other ineligibility at the sending school due to the school's academic standards.

** Season ends on the last date to count for tournament play. Tournament play does not count toward the completion of 50% of the schedule.

(20) A student whose parents move out of the district anytime after he or she becomes a grade 10 student may continue to be eligible in the same school provided enrollment is continuous (unbroken) in the same school.

RESIDENCY- The fact that guardianship papers have been issued, placing a student under the control of a person or persons other than his/her parent(s), does not establish eligibility in the district of the guardian unless such papers are issued through a probate court judge. Residence with and support by any individual or individuals for a period of one calendar year does establish the residence of that individual or individuals as the residence of the student for athletic purposes.

D. A student shall not participate in or represent his or her school in more than one sport after the date of the school's first contest in that sport season, nor may that student represent more than one school during a season unless the student satisfies the conditions of Eligibility Rule II.C.

E. The CIAC season is defined as the period between the date officially designated by the CIAC as the beginning of the season for that sport and the close of the post season CIAC Tournaments, except for those teams and/or athletes qualifying for the New England Tournaments. The conclusion of the New England Tournaments will be the end of the season for these teams and/or athletes. In the case of a sport in which the CIAC does not sponsor a tournament, the three (3) sports seasons shall be defined as follows: Fall--the Monday of the week immediately preceding Labor Day to December 2, inclusive; Winter--November 1 to April 1; Spring--March 15 to the end of the school year.

F. A student who is a member of a school team after the first scheduled tournament, meet or game in any season shall not practice or compete with an outside team, or participate as an individual in non-CIAC tournaments, meets, tryouts*, skills assessment* or games in the same branch of athletics. (Please see athletic director for exceptions on page 67 of CIAC Handbook.) After the first tournament, meet or game of the CIAC seasons a student competing or practicing with a non-CIAC team or as an individual in non-team sports is not eligible to become a member of the CIAC team or squad in the same branch of athletics. **Exceptions to Rule II.F.** are: (1) Participation in parent/child tournaments and caddy tournaments. (2) Swimming, tennis, gymnastics, golf -- a student may practice but not compete with a non-CIAC team or as an individual during the season as long as such practices do not interfere with or replace member school practices.

G. A student shall not participate as a member of a team or as an individual in competition from which he or she receives personal economic gains because of his or her athletic skill. A student shall always participate under his or her OWN NAME.

H. A student shall not participate in a post-season contest as a representative of his or her school except as provided in Article VII Section A, of the CIAC By-laws.

I. Requests for exceptions to the eligibility rules(including the Transfer Rule) and related appeals to the Eligibility Review Board may be considered only after the actual transfer to the new school has taken place.

III. PENALTIES Violations of any sections of Rule II (Student Eligibility) shall mean that the student is suspended from all interscholastic athletics until he or she shall have been reinstated by the Board of Control of the CIAC. A student of any member school of the CIAC may be barred from participation in athletic contests for violation of the CIAC By-laws. A student against whom a charge or protest has been filed shall have the privilege of having his or her case presented by his or her principal at the next scheduled meeting of the Board of Control.

IV. GENERAL PROCEDURES A. If a team uses an ineligible player, the game, whether won or lost, shall be counted, at the discretion of the CIAC Board of Control, as a defeat for the team on which the ineligible player played. For the opposing team such a game shall be counted as a victory. All such games shall be counted on the schedule of both teams as games played.

B. No member of the administration or teaching staff of a member school shall engage in, or cooperate in negotiations to induce a potentially eligible student to engage in professional sports, or to sign a contract before graduation or before leaving school. In case of violation the school will be issued a warning in writing for the first offense and be subject to suspension for the second offense.

C. 1. A member school or any affiliated person or organization of that school may not recruit a student for athletic purposes. **2.** Recruiting is the use of undue influence and/or special inducement by anyone associated with a school in an attempt to encourage a prospective student to attend or remain at that school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics. Refer to CIAC By-law Art. X, Recruitment.

D. Within two (2) school days after the first game of each sport, the principal shall sign and submit to the Executive Director of the CIAC, for each sport, a typed, alphabetical list of students by name, date of birth, grade, school last attended (if a transfer student defined under II, C.), certifying that these students are eligible for that season. As changes occur in eligibility they must be submitted within two (2) school days, to the Executive Director. Failure to comply with this rule may be cause of probation. ALL questions of eligibility verification must be referred to the Executive Director.

E. The headmaster or principal of each member school agrees that the interpretation of these eligibility rules made by the Committee on Eligibility Rules of the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference shall be final, subject only to review by the Board of Control of the Conference.

F. Girls who participate on boy's teams, because the school does not offer a girl's program in that sport, may enter either the boys or girls tournament, but not both. Girls who choose to participate on a boy's team when the school offers a girls team in that sport, may only enter the boy's tournament. Boys may not play on girls teams.

G. On the eve of or during a tournament event, when there is not sufficient time to follow normal administrative procedures regarding student or team ineligibility or when any other issue arises that will interrupt normal tournament procedures, the executive director of CIAC (or his/her designee) in consultation with the CIAC chair person, eligibility committee chair person and the chair person of the tournament committee in question will make an appropriate decision in consideration of the best interests of the tournament as a whole.

V. SANCTIONS

For these rules of eligibility and control the following definitions shall be used by the CIAC Board of Control:

PROBATION--A period of trial during which the school is monitored to determine compliance with the requirements of CIAC regulations.

PROHIBITION--The school cannot participate in any CIAC- sponsored meets or tournaments.

SUSPENSION--A school is removed from the CIAC and has the status of a non-member in all activities.

FINE--Punitive monetary fines nor to exceed \$10,000 may be imposed.

VI. EXCEPTIONS Requests for exceptions to the eligibility rules must be made according to Article VIII, Section B., 4., of the CIAC By-laws.

VII. APPEALS Any appeals from the decisions of the Eligibility Committee must be made according to Article VIII, Section B., 6., of the CIAC By-laws.

VIII. LIST OF CIAC-CONTROLLED ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES

GIRLS ACTIVITIES

Fall

Cross Country
Field Hockey
Soccer
Swimming
Volleyball

Winter

Basketball
Gymnastics
Indoor Track

Spring

Golf
Lacrosse
Outdoor Track
Softball
Tennis

BOYS ACTIVITIES

Fall

Winter

Spring

Cross Country
Football
Soccer

Basketball
Hockey
Indoor Track
Swimming
Wrestling

Golf
Lacrosse
Outdoor Track
Tennis
Baseball
Volleyball

IX. EFFECTIVE DATE These rules shall be in effect on, and after July 1, 20011.

X. For the rule interpretations, Sunday is considered the first day of a calendar week.

CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE
30 Realty Drive, Cheshire, Connecticut 06410
Telephone (203) 250-1111 / Fax (203) 250-1345

To CIAC Student Athletes:

The CIAC has provided this document so that you, the student athlete, might have the means to be informed both of the CIAC bylaws and your rights under those bylaws. This is also your personal copy of the Rules of Eligibility and Control with which all member schools and their athletes are required to comply. You and your parents or legal guardian are strongly urged both to read this document carefully to acquaint yourselves with the important information it contains, and to save it for future reference. This document does not purport to list all CIAC athletic policies or regulations. Those can be found in the CIAC Handbook, a copy of which has been distributed to all member high schools.

ATHLETES' RIGHTS OF DUE PROCESS

There may come a time when, because of special circumstances, an athlete either commits an act, or fails to perform a duty, which results in his/her being declared ineligible to compete in a high school sport. In some cases, exceptions to the eligibility rules can be granted. All athletes have the right to the due process procedures listed below in seeking to have their eligibility restored.

Step 1. The athlete should first discuss the matter with the appropriate coach or athletic director. If it is felt that the circumstances of the case warrant a request for the exception to the rule, the high school principal should be informed.

Step 2. The high school principal then requests in writing to the CIAC Eligibility Committee that the matter be examined and an exception granted. Address of the committee: 30 Realty Drive, Cheshire, CT 06410.

Step 3. The CIAC Eligibility Committee will examine the facts of the case at its next regular meeting. The committee has the right to require that medical reports and/or other relevant documentation be provided.

Step 4. If the appeal is denied, the student's ineligibility remains in force for the period required in the regulations. The school has the right to request a hearing on the denial before the Eligibility Review Board within fourteen (14) days after said decision. If the Eligibility Committee decides that the circumstances of the case merit an exception, the matter will be forwarded to the Eligibility Review Board. In both cases the Eligibility Review Board will conduct a full hearing on the matter at its next scheduled meeting. Meeting time lines will be followed. At that time, the athlete, parents of the athlete, school representatives, and any other persons that may help to represent the athlete's case may appear and present evidence before the Eligibility Review Board. The Board has the right to require presentation of medical reports, financial data or other relevant documentation.

Step 5. The Eligibility Review Board will only consider that evidence presented in support of the athlete's case which has previously been disclosed to the school(s) or person(s) involved or who

will be involved in the hearing or proceeding in sufficient time for such school(s) or person(s) to have reviewed the evidence, to have conducted an investigation of the matter, if appropriate, and to be prepared to present to the Board information deemed relevant to the athlete's case.

Step 6. The Eligibility Review Board will, following a full hearing and proper consideration of the facts of the case, render its decision, either to grant or deny the requested exception or to uphold the decision of the Eligibility Committee. If the exception is granted, the athlete's eligibility is restored immediately and retroactively. If it is denied, the student's eligibility remains in force for the period required in the regulations.

A member principal on behalf of the student athlete has the right to request the Board of Control to review the Eligibility Review Board's decision. Appeals of decisions of the CIAC Eligibility Review Board are final except the CIAC board of control reserves the right to review and act upon only those cases which it believes involve issues of critical and conflicting opinion among the Eligibility Committee and the Eligibility Review Board or which, as a result of other compelling reasons, deserves the attention of the CIAC Board of Control.

CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

Policy Regarding Confidentiality of Information Relating to Student-Athletes, Member Schools, Sports Officials and Other Adults

CIAC respects and seeks to protect the legitimate privacy interests of student-athletes. The following policy outlines what student-athlete information one should expect to provide to CIAC and how CIAC handles the use and disclosure of such information. The policy further sets forth how information relating to member schools, CIAC-registered officials and other adults will be handled by CIAC.

1. Student-Athlete Information

CIAC regularly requires production of certain factual information needed to determine athletic eligibility of students and/or to enforce the CIAC Constitution, By-laws, Policies and Procedures, and Rules and Regulations. The information includes both public and personal private student information. Such information routinely includes the student's (1) name; (2) home address; (3) age and date of birth; (4) academic records; (5) attendance records; and (6) information relating to a student's participation in interscholastic athletic competition. In some instances, CIAC may require certain health, other records of students and/or financial records of parents/guardians.

a. **General Policy** – It is CIAC policy that personal private information concerning student-athletes, provided by students or schools for the purpose of determining the eligibility of a student and to enforce the CIAC Constitution, By-laws, Policies and Procedures, and Rules and Regulations, shall unless a waiver of disclosure is provided by the student or the student's parent(s) if the student is under the age of 18, be limited to such purposes and shall not be disclosed to persons not properly involved in the handling of the matter. The name of the student, the name of the student's school, the eligibility rule at issue, and the mere finding of eligibility or ineligibility are not considered confidential.

b. Confidentiality Prior To, and During, Eligibility and Disciplinary Proceedings

1) **Initial Consideration of Eligibility Matters** – On agendas of meetings and notices of special meetings to consider eligibility matters, the CIAC shall identify the name of students whose eligibility is in question, the name of the students' schools, and the eligibility rule(s) at issue. Documents submitted to the CIAC in support of or opposing the eligibility of a student, and which contain personal private information about a student, should not be disclosed to third parties without approval of the student or, if the student is under the age of eighteen (18), the student's parent(s). Where there is no dispute concerning the eligibility of a student or group of students, the CIAC shall, in open session, approve requests for determination of eligibility without discussion of particular circumstances. Where, however,

there is any question of eligibility and consideration of the particular circumstances requires discussion of personal private information, such discussion should occur in executive session. Action taken merely to schedule an eligibility hearing should be taken in public session.

2) **Conduct of Eligibility Hearings** – During eligibility and disciplinary hearings, when a student, the student's family, and/or the student's school, anticipates that personal private information relating to the student-athlete and/or the student's family or others may be disclosed, the student, the student's family, and/or the student's

school may request that all or parts of the matter be closed to persons not involved in the hearing or affiliated with CIAC. Absent objection, and under normal circumstances, the presiding officer should honor such request. If any person objects to closure of the hearing, the presiding officer shall consider the merits of the respecting positions and determine whether complete or partial closure of the matter is appropriate. In reaching such decision, the presiding officer shall carefully consider the privacy interests of students as the primary factor to be weighed, but shall take into account a general goal of openness of proceedings. Where closure is deemed appropriate, and it is feasible to do so, the presiding officer should limit closure to those parts of the hearing where personal private information of the student or the student's family is likely to be disclosed.

3) Disclosure of Eligibility, Disciplinary, and Other Decisions – Copies of correspondence, minutes of CIAC meetings, and other documents merely stating the determination of eligibility or ineligibility shall be freely disclosed to others. Copies of correspondence and other documents setting forth rationales for decisions may be disclosed unless such documents include discussion of personal private information of students and/or their families or others, in which case such documents shall be sent only to (1) the student-athlete; (2) appropriate representatives of the school(s) involved in the proceeding; (3) the student's and school's legal counsel, if identified; (4) members of the Board of Control; (5) appropriate members and employees of the relevant District Committee(s); (6) the CIAC administrative staff; and (7) legal counsel for CIAC. Other persons may receive copies of such correspondence upon approval of the CIAC Executive Board (officers of CIAC). CIAC may publish, on its websites, minutes and newsletters, the following: (a) the name of the student whose eligibility was in question; (2) the name of the student's school; (3) the eligibility rule at issue; and (4) the finding of eligibility or ineligibility. Where such information is provided, no discussion of the circumstances of the student's situation or the reasons or rationale for the decision shall be provided. For the benefit of the CIAC membership, summaries of the recommendations and rationales may be posted on its websites, minutes and newsletters. Provided that no personal private information of the student, the student's family, or others, is disclosed. Except as stated above, absent approval of the CIAC Executive Board, the CIAC administrative staff, Board of Control, and CIAC legal counsel shall treat personal private information of students, their families and others, including individual student records and letters setting forth rationales of decisions as confidential. All inquiries should be directed to the affected school(s). Upon request, the CIAC Executive Board may, in its discretion, authorize the disclosure of the rationales of the Board of Control or Board(s) of Appeal provided that such disclosure does not include personal private information of a student. Any of the restrictions on disclosure set forth above may be waived upon consent of the student, if the student is under age of eighteen (18), the parents of the student, whose eligibility at issue.

c. Information Relating to Athletic Performance of Students – CIAC regularly obtains or develops information related to the athletic performance of student-athletes who participate in CIAC-sponsored interscholastic athletic competition. As such performances occur in a public setting and cannot be considered confidential, such information will not be treated as confidential.

2. Information Concerning Member Schools and Adults

a. General Policy – It is CIAC policy that, as a general matter, information concerning (1) member schools; (2) personnel and representatives of member schools; (3) CIAC registered officials; and (4) other adults, may be freely used and discussed by CIAC with no restrictions. Exceptions to this general approach are set forth below.

b. Confidentiality During Hearings – Where actions may be taken against a school or its personnel, or CIAC-registered officials, pursuant to the provisions of the CIAC By-laws, the school or adults involved may request that all or parts of the matter be closed to persons not involved in the hearing or affiliated with CIAC. Under normal circumstances, and if no objection is made, such request may be honored by the presiding officer when potentially criminal conduct or the employment of member school coaches or other employees may be at issue. In other instances, the presiding officer should be reluctant to close the hearing. If any person objects to closure of any part of the hearing, the presiding officer shall consider the merits of the respecting positions and determine whether complete or partial closure of the matter is appropriate. In reaching such decision, the presiding officer shall weigh the privacy interests of member school personnel and the legitimate interest of CIAC members and the public in knowledge of enforcement of the CIAC Constitution, By-laws, Policies and Procedures, and Rules and Regulations. Where closure is deemed appropriate, and it is feasible to do so, the

presiding officer should attempt to limit closure. c. **Disclosure of Disciplinary and Other Decisions** – Copies of correspondence, minutes of CIAC and other documents merely stating the determination of eligibility or ineligibility shall be freely disclosed to others. Copies of correspondence and other documents which include discussion of personal private information of individuals or information which relates to possible criminal matters and/or employment disciplinary matters shall be sent only to (1) appropriate representatives of the school(s) involved in the proceeding; (2) the school's legal counsel, if identified; (3) members of the Board of Control; (4) appropriate members of the relevant CIAC Committee(s); (5) the CIAC administrative staff; and (6) legal counsel for CIAC. Other persons may receive copies of such correspondence upon approval of the CIAC Executive Board. For the benefit of the CIAC membership, CIAC may publish, on their respective websites, minutes and newsletters, summaries of the decisions and rationales, provided that personal private information of individuals and information which relates to possible criminal matters and/or employment disciplinary matter is not published.

Injuries

Procedures in the event of an injury:

- Parents should be notified immediately of their child's injury, be advised as to what has been done, and informed as to the hospital or doctor's office to which they were taken.
- A coach or member of the sports medicine staff should accompany any athlete being taken to the hospital or to the doctor's office. He/she should remain with the student until the parent arrive. Note: In the event the coach is alone, the coach will remain with the team, sent the student in the ambulance, and notify the parents as soon as possible.
- The head coach should follow the case closely, No athlete who has sustained a serious injury or received medical attention by a physician should be allowed to return to practice or competition without written approval of their physician.
- Coaches must complete and file an accident report with the nurse within 24 hours following the injury.

Insurance

Students participating in interscholastic sports will be covered by team insurance. This insurance is non-duplicating, which means that the parents insurance pays first. That portion not covered by the parents' insurance will be covered by the team insurance. If the parents have no insurance for their child, then the team insurance will pay in full up to the policy limit. Athletes/parents have 90days from the date of injury to file a claim with the school's insurance company. Insurance forms MUST be obtained from the coach, athletic facilitator or athletic trainer. All injuries must be reported to the health office as soon as possible.

Locker Room Responsibility

Athletes are encouraged to leave valuables at home during contest and practices. SMSA, the Board of Education, and the bus company are neither liable nor responsible for stolen or lost items. Students who bring valuables to an athletic contest are required to bring a lock and lock their locker at all times. Do not share your combination with others. Locker rooms are to be left in clean condition and all lockers will be cleaned at the conclusion of the season.

The issue of locker security is the responsibility of the athlete. Lost uniforms and equipment will result in accountabilities for the athlete. If not paid, these accountabilities can result in ineligibility to play the next season.

Managers

The head coach will appoint the team manager(s). The team manager must be a SMSA student and follow all regulations outlined in this handbook for the student-athlete (i.e. physical exam, eligibility). The head coach will define the specific duties for the team managers. Awards will be given at the discretion of the head coach.

The student team manager will:

- Travel with the team.
- Attend all games, awards ceremonies and banquets. Follow the appropriate team dress code.

Physical Examination Requirements

To participate in interscholastic athletics, students must have an updated physical examination. The school does not provide physicals for physical examinations. Students are urged to obtain them during July or August from their own physician. Physicals are valid for three calendar years from the date of the exam. Each athlete must have a physical exam from a medical doctor. Proof of such an exam is to be given to the nurse.

Along with the required updated physical exams yearly sport specific parental permission slips are also required. Students missing either a physical or a signed permission slip will not be allowed to try out, practice, or play in contests. Coaches will carry emergency medical information for athletes and managers as well as a medical kit to practice, home and away games.

In accordance with CIAC:

4.15.B. PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR STUDENT ATHLETES (POLICY STATEMENT)

Every athlete who participates in any CIAC-sanctioned activity (practice and/or contest) must be determined physically fit through a pre-participating evaluation performed within the past 13 months in accordance with reasonable and prudent written medical protocol as determined by his/her board of education or governing body. The pre-participation physical evaluations may be performed by any individual who has been authorized to do so under local board of education policy. The CIAC leaves the responsibility of administering physical evaluations under local control as long as such policy is not in violation of any state statutes regarding physical examinations.

Schedule Changes / Cancellation of Athletic Contests

Athletes are issued season schedules by their coaches at the beginning of each season and can be obtained on the CIAC website @ casciac.org (must up to date version).

Due to weather related problems, specific athletic contests, practices, or games may need to be cancelled. If school is in session, the athletic facilitator and the principal will make a collaborative decision to cancel a game or practice due to weather conditions. In the event a change in time or site becomes necessary, students will be notified by an announcement over the public address system or via the daily bulletin. Parents may call the office at 695-6900 to verify cancellations. Team phone chains will be utilized by coaches should cancellations occur during vacation time.

If school is cancelled for the day (i.e. snow day, early dismissal), all games and practices are cancelled for that day.

Spring Football

According to CIAC rules, there will be spring football practice or an early start date in August. In the event an athlete is participating in an SMSA interscholastic spring season sport and a tournament or a state meet is scheduled, the athlete if involved must honor their commitment to their spring program before participating in spring football if offered. Academic eligibility applies to spring football. It is expected that students who participate in fall football will participate in spring football.

Sunday / Holiday Participation

Scheduling of practices including Sunday and school holidays, is at the discretion of the school. Sunday practices must begin after 1:00 p.m. and may be no longer than two hours in duration. Sunday practices must be cleared with the athletic facilitator prior to the end of the school day on the proceeding Friday. No student, who for religious reasons, misses a school extracurricular activity (including Athletics), shall be penalized in any way.

Team Rules

The coach will provide written team rules at the mandatory pre-season team orientation meeting. He /she will discuss these rules with all prospective team members. The principal and athletic facilitator will approve these rules, adopted by the head coach for a particular team.

Team Tryouts

Students may try out for any sport while at Sport and Medical Sciences Academy as long as they remain eligible and are in good standing with the athletic department and SMSA policies. However, a student will not be allowed to drop one sport for another in the same season without permission of both coaches prior to the first game. Prior to the beginning of a season, if a student- athlete is cut from one sport, he / she may try out for another sport during the same season. A student will not be allowed to drop a sport in season to try out for an upcoming sport if he /she is a member of the sport team at the time of the first game. He /she will be declared ineligible to participate in another sport until completion of the season in progress.

Transportation

Student athletes must travel to and from the athletic contests via transportation provided by the school. The exceptions are;

- Injury to a participant, which requires alternative transportation.
- Prior arrangement between the participant's parent / guardian and the athletic facilitator for the student-athlete to ride with the parent / guardian in the case of an emergency, or other extraordinary circumstances.

Vacations / Extracurricular – Co Curricular Participation

Sport and Medical Sciences Academy supports a well-rounded comprehensive education for every student. To this end student's who wish to participate in athletics are encouraged to become involved in other extracurricular and co-curricular activities as well. A co-curricular activity is one that is associated with either learning and/ or an academic grade (i.e., DECA, National Honor Society, and Clubs).

It shall be considered a privilege to be member of a Sport and Medical Sciences Academy team and/ or to participate in other extracurricular / co-curricular activities. To retain this privilege, students involved in extracurricular and co-curricular activities must abide by rules established by coaches, activity faculty advisors, and the school administration.

No student shall be denied participation in a sport activity if they choose to be involved in other school activities in accordance with the following protocol:

- Student athletes are expected to be present for athletic practices and games during vacations. If they must be absent and miss a game, they must sit out a game. For every two practices missed, they miss a game. This also applies to student athletes who have been suspended from school and, therefore, missed a practices and /or games. To ensure safety, upon return from such an absence, a coach can require the student athlete to spend a reasonable number of days conditioning before returning to practice or games. The player would resume his/ her membership on the athletic roster. Any absences from practices or games that are associated with other school activities must be related to curriculum and/or learning (i.e., a trip to an amusement park with a club for recreation would not be an acceptable reason). Athletes who attend co-curricular activities which are associated with learning cannot be penalized from participation in his/her athletic sport when he/she returns. In rare cases when conditioning is needed for the athletes to safely participate, that decision should be made at the discretion of the athletic trainer and /or a qualified professional other than the coaches approved by the principal. This professional must sign a statement that the athlete is ready to participate after he/ she is in satisfactory physical condition to appropriately participate. A medical physician's statement will be acceptable in lieu of the athletic trainer or other professional's statement to participate.
- It should be understood that students must make choices about extracurricular and co-curricular involvements, particularly when they involve major commitments of time. Students who choose to participate in athletics will not be able to assume major roles in other activities, such as drama productions, because their inconsistent attendance would be detriment to the team.
- Unresolved questions related to athletic participation shall be taken to the principal or his /her designee within reasonable amount of time for final resolution.

Volunteer Coaches

A volunteer coach can appointed if he/ she has the appropriate coaching certificate, has been interviewed and recommended by the school principal and athletic facilitator, and approved by the board of education upon the superintendent's recommendation. Volunteer coaches must abide by the same policies and procedures that other coaches who are employed by the board of education are required to follow.

Under no circumstances shall uncertified / unlicensed volunteer coaches have individual supervision or responsibility for students. All volunteer coaches must work under the direct and continual supervision in eyesight of the head coach who is hired by the Hartford board of education.

SMSA Sport Programs

BOYS

GIRLS

FALL

Football (V, JV)
Soccer (V, JV)
Cross Country (V, JV)

Volleyball (V, JV, F)
Soccer (V, JV)
Cheerleading (V, JV)
Cross Country (V, JV)

WINTER

Basketball (V, JV)
Indoor Track (V, JV)
Wrestling (V, JV)

Basketball (V, JV)
Indoor Track (V, JV)
Cheerleading (V)

SPRING

Baseball (V, JV)
Outdoor Track (V)
Golf (V)

Softball (V, JV)
Outdoor Track (V)
Golf (V)

School Colors / Mascot

Sport and Medical Sciences Academy colors are Columbia blue and Black.

Sport and Medical Sciences Academy mascot is a Tiger

Sport and Medical Sciences Academy

Players' Agreement / Parental Permission

To be a member of a Sport and Medical Sciences Academy athletic team is a **privilege** and not a **right**. Students are expected to behave with respect and concerns for the rights, safety, and welfare of all individuals while participating in the athletic program.

A student must abide by the rules stated in the athletic handbook as well as the specific requirements outlined by the head coach for the sport in which he/ she is participating. These rules are established to insure an athlete's safe and efficient participation in SMSA athletics:

1. I agree to attend all practices and contests. If I am injured or sick, I must first notify the head coach and when appropriate the athletic facilitator, or school nurse. Routine doctor's appointments should be scheduled around practice sessions. Absences from practices or game will be handled as explained in the SMSA athletic handbook.
2. Family vacations that interfere with organized practices and /or games should be discussed with the head coach prior to the season. Athletes and parents should realize that missed practices will effect the playing time of the athlete.
3. In order to practice or compete in an athletic contest, an athlete must be in attendance at school for four consecutive hours and stay the duration of the day. Any special considerations must be cleared with administration 48 hours in advance.
4. Equipment and uniforms are not to worn in school with the exception of GAME SHIRTS on GAME DAYS ONLY(tucked in). Athletic outerwear is prohibited during the school day. Athletes are financially responsible for uniforms and equipment issued to them beyond normal wear and tear.
5. At the close of an athletic season, in order to be eligible for awards and to attend banquets, an athlete must still be a member of the team in good standing and have fulfilled all school and sport obligations.
6. Athletes must abide by all SMSA, NCCC and CIAC rules and regulations. Violation(s) may result in suspension or removal from the team.
7. Athletes may not possess or use alcohol, tobacco, steroids or any other illegal or non-prescribed drugs. Violation(s) will result in suspension or removal from the team.
8. An athlete should be dressed with neat and clean attire while practicing, competing in a game, or traveling with a team.
9. An athlete will act according to the tradition of good sportsmanship and follow SMSA's Four Core Beliefs. An athlete will refrain from swearing or directing derogatory comments at a teammate, opponent, official, coach, or spectator.
10. Athletes are required to travel to and from contests via transportation provided by the school. Any exceptions to this rule must be made 24 hours in advance in written and approved by administration.
11. It is the responsibility of athletes to obtain all work missed due to an athletic contest. All work shall be made up at the convenience of the teacher.

By signing this document, both the athlete and the parent agree to abide by the team rules (sport specific), SMSA rules, NCCC rules and the rules contained in the SMSA athletic handbook. By signing this document parent / guardian:

- Gives permission for their son / daughter to participate in Sport and Medical Sciences Academy Interscholastic Athletics during the 2011 – 2012 school year.
- Realizes that their child may suffer serious injury including but not limited to sprains, fractures, brain damage, paralysis, or even death, which is inherent in all sports.

By not signing this document, your son/daughter will not be permitted to participate in the athletic program at SMSA.

_____ Player's signature	_____ Players name printed	_____ Date	_____ Sport
_____ Parent's signature	_____ Date		
_____ Coach's signature	_____ Date		