

Student Athlete Code of Responsibility

Keep for your records



The Oley Valley School District Discipline Code and the Student Athlete Code of Responsibility governs all students participating in Oley Valley School District Interscholastic athletic programs. Any violation of the student discipline code may result in the forfeiture of the privilege of participation on an Oley Valley School District athletic team.

As representatives of the Oley Valley School District and its programs, participants are expected to exhibit exemplary behavior in and out of school. Therefore, it is understood that all responsibilities listed in, but not limited to, the Code of Responsibility will apply at all times and that suspension and/or dismissal from athletics may result from failure to comply with these responsibilities.

1. While head coaches may assess penalties for violation of team or activity rules and regulations, the building principal or his/her designee may declare a student ineligible from participation in athletics because of conduct or behavior unbecoming of a student athlete.
2. All in-season student athletes must be in school before 9:30 AM. The building principal must approve any exception to this rule. Please let the Athletic Director or Principal know in advance if you will be arriving at school after 9:30 for an excused reason.
3. Each student is responsible for school issued equipment and uniforms. It is the student athlete's responsibility to properly secure equipment in the appropriate area. Each student athlete is responsible for reporting lost, damaged or unsafe equipment to the head coach. Any student athlete who has not returned all school issued equipment and uniforms or has any other obligations will not be eligible for participation in another sport and will not receive their report card or diploma until the equipment is returned or the debt paid.
4. Student athletes must meet all Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) requirements and abide by all governing rules of the PIAA and the Oley Valley School District including, but not limited to, age regulations, amateur status, physical examination, and academic requirements. Students who do not meet or who violate the requirements of the PIAA and/or the Oley Valley School District shall be deemed ineligible for participation and may receive additional disciplinary action.
5. The student athlete may not be failing two (2) or more classes in any one week. Weekly academic eligibility reports are submitted to the athletic office for review. Student athletes who are failing two (2) or more subjects in any one week will be deemed ineligible for the following week, which includes Sunday through, and including, the following Saturday. Student athletes who are failing two (2) or more subjects at the end of a grading period will be deemed ineligible for the following four (4) weeks, starting with the first day of the next grading period.

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6. A high school student athlete who has fifteen (15) demerits will be ineligible to participate in any activity, which includes practices and games, until his/her demerit total is below fifteen (15) demerits.
7. Student athletes must obey the following rules governing Oley Valley School District student athletes:
 - Student athletes are required to use the school district approved transportation to all athletic events sponsored by the Oley Valley School District. Special exceptions may be allowed by permission of the Athletic Director. Student athletes who wish to travel to or from a contest with their parent/guardian must complete the appropriate form located in the athletic office and on the Oley Valley School District web site and return the form to the Athletic Director twenty-four (24) hours prior to the event. Student athletes will only be granted permission to travel with their parent or guardian.
 - Student athletes must receive permission from the coach for any use of a cell phone during an athletic trip or event.
 - Student athletes must bring all equipment and uniforms inside the building at the beginning of school. Equipment should be placed in the student assigned locker. Students are not allowed to go to their cars when there is an early dismissal nor will they be allowed to drive home if they have forgotten equipment. Student athletes are not allowed to park in the back parking lot behind the high school gymnasium. All personal belongings need to be secured during practices and games. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items that are left unsecured in the locker rooms.
 - Student athletes are not eligible for participation when serving In School Suspension or Out of School Suspension. If a suspension is served on a Friday, the student is also ineligible for any activities taking place on that Saturday, unless the principal or his/her designee gives specific permission.
 - Student athletes who are found to be participating in any type of hazing or harassment activities will be disciplined by the principal. Suspension and/or dismissal from the team may occur, and in addition, possible police notification may take place.
 - Student athletes who are found to be consuming, possessing, distributing, or under the influence of any controlled substance, including alcohol, on school grounds will be disciplined by the principal. The student athlete may be required to meet with a certified Drug & Alcohol counselor before reinstatement to an athletic team. Suspension and/or dismissal from the team may occur, and in addition, possible police notification may take place.
 - Student athletes who violate the discipline code as stated in Oley Valley School Board Policy from legal residency to school and back to the same legal place of residency shall be held accountable for their actions during that entire period of time. The current discipline code that all students follow in their respective buildings shall be in effect.

Parent/Coach Communication Plan

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Oley Valley's Athletic Department is committed to bringing together both the parents and coaches to build better programs for the students of Oley Valley.

Parent/Coach Relationship

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult roles. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide a greater benefit to the students. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

Communication You Should Expect From Your Child's Coach

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the team
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests
4. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning
5. Procedures should your child be injured during participation
6. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation

Communication Coaches Expect From Parents

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach
 2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
 3. Specific concern in regard to the coach's philosophy and/or expectations
- As your children become involved in the programs at Oley Valley, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments in their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged by both the athlete and the parents.*

Appropriate Concerns To Discuss With Coaches

1. Treatment of your child, mentally and physically
 2. Ways to help your child improve
 3. Concerns about your child's behavior
- It is difficult to accept that your child may not be playing as much as you may hope. COACHES ARE PROFESSIONALS. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things (to follow on the back of this page) should be left to the discretion of the coach.*

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Issues NOT Appropriate To Discuss With Coaches

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other student-athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences become necessary, the procedure below should be followed to help promote a resolution for the issue of concern.

If You Have A Concern To Discuss With A Coach, The Procedure You Should Follow Is:

1. Call the coach to set up an appointment
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director, Mr. Timothy Rhoads at 610-987-4111 to set up the meeting for you
3. Please do not attempt to confront the coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

What A Parent Can Do If The Meeting With The Coach Did Not Provide A Satisfactory Resolution

1. Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined

Since research indicates a student involved in co-curricular activities has a greater chance for success during adulthood, such programs have been established by the Oley Valley School District. Many of the character traits required to be successful participants are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope the information provided within this memo makes both your child's and your experience with the Oley Valley Athletic program less stressful and more enjoyable.