

# **SOUTH KINGSTOWN SCHOOL DEPARTMENT STUDENT ATHLETE HANDBOOK**

## **FORWARD**

The purpose of this handbook is to aid the student athlete and his/her parents/guardian to understand the policies established to operate our athletic program. The standardization of forms, procedures, rules and regulations should bring about a more efficient operation of the Interscholastic Athletic Program at the high school and middle schools.

Terry Lynch  
Director of Athletics

## **1. PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS**

The interscholastic athletic program in South Kingstown Schools is an accepted and integral part of the curriculum, which produces many benefits difficult to achieve in other areas of education. The coaches of interscholastic sports often times have a greater opportunity to achieve many educational goals because they have the advantages of more time and smaller numbers of students who are highly motivated. Under these circumstances, students on interscholastic teams can often achieve greater measures of physical fitness, motor skills, and the development of sound social, emotional and mental attitudes.

The Athletic Department will strive to develop good sportsmanship, team play, a competitive spirit and team and school loyalty in every athlete. Program participants will be expected to display the proper ideals of ethical conduct, fair play and to show respect to officials, opposing teams and fellow players. Also, the athletic program will strive to encourage a winning attitude while not losing sight of other related ideals.

The athletic program will provide instruction and encourage maximum participation in a wide variety of activities that should satisfy most of the needs and interests of the students. In administering the athletic program, every effort will be made to those activities that best meet the needs and interests of the greatest number of students; to provide the best possible facilities and equipment; and to provide the best qualified coaching personnel. The health and welfare of the participants shall be the primary consideration in conducting the athletic program.

Every student wishing to take advantage of the athletic program in the South Kingstown Schools should make certain that they are well aware of the rules and obligations they are assuming before deciding to try-out for an athletic team. The student's first obligation in regards to recreation and other outside activities is the school team. Also, parents should be familiar with the rules and regulations.

Each student and parent should realize that participating in the school athletic program is a privilege of representing himself/herself and his or her school, as long as the student is willing to accept the responsibility of adhering to all rules and regulations.

## 2. RULES AND REGULATIONS

All rules apply to all athletes including players, managers, trainers, cheerleaders and all other students representing a team from South Kingstown School Department.

Students may not take part in any extra-curricular activity if the student was absent from school on that particular day. A student must be in school on the last day classes were in session prior to a weekend or a vacation or the student will not be allowed to participate in the activity held on the weekend. The student may participate during the vacation upon presenting the coach with a written excuse. Students must ride bus to and from events unless written permission from parent/guardian and cleared with the Coach and Athletic Director.

Any student who is not in school after 9:00 a.m. and leaves before 12:30 p.m. at the Middle Schools and at the High School may not participate in a practice or game that day without the permission of a school administrator. ***(Please see Student Handbook for Attendance Policy)***.

A student who is on school probation, on in-school suspension or on suspension from school shall not participate in practice or games during that time. When the school probation, the in-school suspension or the suspension from school ends, the student-athlete may participate the next school day or the first day of vacation. Athletes should notify the coach, assistant coach, athletic director or school official before the end of the school day if lateness or absence is anticipated for a practice session. An unexcused absence from a game may suspend the athlete for the season or at least for the number of games equal to the number of games missed because of the unexcused absence.

### **Excused Absence:**

- A. Personal illness - to be verified by appropriate authority; if deemed necessary by the responsible school official.
- B. Appointments with health professionals that cannot be made outside of the regular school day. The responsible school official may request appropriate documentation.
- C. Observance of recognized religious holidays, when the observance is required during a regular school day.
- D. Emergency family situations as deemed appropriate by the responsible school official.
- E. Planned absences for personal or educational purposes, which have been approved.

### **Unexcused Absences (Truant):**

All absences that are not included as excused absences.

### **3. MISCELLANEOUS**

- A. There are three athletic seasons: fall, winter and spring.
- B. An athlete may not quit one sport and go out for another the same season, unless the athlete has the written consent of both coaches and the athletic director.
- C. Athletes are expected to be neatly groomed and attired when traveling to a contest according to the coach's instructions.
- D. General conduct in and out of school, before, during and after the season, shall be such as to bring no discredit to the athletes, his parents, school or team.
- E. The athlete will assume responsibility for all issued equipment and clothing and will be assessed for any loss or damaged items. All equipment must be turned in no later than one week after the last contest or the student may be barred from all extracurricular activity until it is returned or replaced.
- F. No athletic equipment or clothing will be used or worn except when participating in a practice, game or other designated function.
- G. Any clothing bought by teams must be white, navy or gray with SK, Rebels or South Kingstown as the logo.
- H. An athlete who has been injured and treated by a doctor will not be permitted to practice or play until he/she submits a written note from that doctor concerning the status of the injury.
- I. All squad members will abide by any additional training regulations as set forth by the coach with the approval of the athletic director. Additional training regulations will be posted in the locker rooms.
- J. Coaches shall have the right to take reasonable disciplinary action pertaining to any problem that may arise that has not already been reviewed in this handbook.
- K. All athletes are required to travel to and from out-of-town contests with the team. Permission may be granted by the coach to allow an athlete to be released to his/her parent or guardian if such a request is received in writing or in person from the parent or guardian prior to such release.

#### **4. SPORTSMANSHIP AND ETHICAL CONDUCT**

A. All students will adhere to the following expectations as recommended by the Rhode Island Interscholastic League (RIIL).

##### **Expectations of Student-Athletes**

1. Must appreciate and understand that their behavior is observed and emulated by many that are younger.
2. Live up to the high standard of sportsmanship established by our League, School Administration and Coaching Staff.
3. Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility, and the privilege of representing your school and community.
4. Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, fellow students and elementary students. This will assist both them and you in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
5. Treat opponents the way you would like to be treated, as a guest or friend. Who better than yourselves can understand all the hard work and team effort that is required of you sport?
6. Refrain from taunting, trash talking, or making any kind of derogatory remarks to your opponents during the game. Refrain from intimidating behavior.
7. Wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner that you would like to be greeted with following either victory or defeat.
8. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. The officials are doing their best to help promote you and your sport. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will only make a positive impression of you and your team in the eyes of the officials and all people at the event.
9. Win with humility; lose with grace. Handle both with dignity. Avoid excessive celebrating after a play or the end of a game.
10. All athletes ejected from a contest must meet with the Athletic Director or Principal the following day. The student/athlete may not attend the next contest even as a spectator and not until the proper sportsmanship ejection forms have been sent to the RIIL.

## **Expectations of Spectators**

1. Remember that you are at a contest to support and yell for your team and to enjoy the skill and competition; not to intimidate or ridicule the other team and its fans.
2. Remember that school athletics are learning experiences for students and that mistakes are sometimes made. Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes and as people as you would praise student working in the classroom.
3. Remember that a ticket to a school athletic event is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others and be generally obnoxious.
4. Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
5. Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, and spectators and support groups. Treat them as you would treat a guest in your own home.
6. Refrain from taunting or making any kind of derogatory comments of ethnic, racial or sexual nature.
7. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Understand that they are doing their best to help promote the student-athlete and admire their willingness to participate in full view of the public.
8. Recognize and show appreciation for outstanding play by either team.
9. Refrain from the use of controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before and during games and tailgating).
10. Use only those cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.
11. Recognize and compliment the efforts of school and league administrators for their efforts in emphasizing the benefits of educational athletics and the role of good sportsmanship to that end.
12. Be a positive behavior role model through your own actions and by censuring those around you at events whose behavior is unbecoming.

## **5. ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION**

To be eligible for interscholastic athletics, students must meet all the requirements set up by the Rhode Island Interscholastic Principal's Committee on Athletics as well as those of the South Kingstown School Department.

### **TRY-OUT ELIGIBILITY**

Before any student may participate in tryouts, the student must:

- A. Be registered with rSchoolday. (Link is on the SKHS Website under Athletics)
- B. Have passed a physical examination during the current school year.
- C. Have signed an agreement to abide by all rules as set forth by the A2E Policy.
- D. Have taken out school insurance or have turned in a waiver form signed by the parent/guardian indicating the medical coverage in force for the student.
- E. Have turned in an Assumption of Risk form if such a form is not already on file.
- F. Have turned in a medical history form.

### **ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**

A. The academic eligibility of students to participate in interscholastic activities will be reviewed subject to the following five marking periods: first quarter, first semester, third quarter, final grade and summer school. It is the established rule of the school department that eligibility may begin or end, depending upon the circumstances, on the day report cards are issued.

B. If a student fails more than one subject during a quarter he or she may not participate in athletics the following quarter. A grade of unsatisfactory is considered to be an F.

C. A student who is academically ineligible may try out for a team. Once the team has been selected, that student must stop all participation.

D. If the student has been selected to the team, he or she may practice with the team two weeks before the end of the quarter provided they are passing all subjects with at least a C average. A form must be signed by the student's teachers and presented to the Athletic Director or Principal.

E. A student with 2 (two) incompletes, or 1 (one) F and 1 (one) incomplete must sign an agreement with those teachers as to when they will make up the incompletes. The student must obtain this form from the Athletic Director.

## **6. RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE ELIGIBILITY RULES**

- A. A student is eligible for eight semesters after he/she first enrolls as a freshman in any high school. There is no semester rule for Jr. High or Middle Schools.
- B. A high school student becomes ineligible if his/her nineteenth birthday occurs prior to September 1st. A Jr. High or Middle School student becomes ineligible if his/her fifteenth birthday occurs prior to September 1st.
- C. All transfer or exchange students must meet with the Principal or Athletic Director before participating.

## **7. ACCESS TO EXCELLENCE (A2E) CHEMICAL HEALTH POLICY**

### **A. PURPOSE**

This policy is established for the purpose of setting forth the South Kingstown School Committee's support of State and Federal laws and regulations governing the possession and use of alcoholic beverages and illicit drugs<sup>1</sup> by South Kingstown school student athletes. Further, this policy sets forth the School Committee's expectations in the event such use or possession occurs on and/or off school property, at a school-sponsored activity or event, or is in any way related to the conduct of athletic programs of the South Kingstown School Department.

### **B. PHILOSOPHY OF ACCESS TO EXCELLENCE**

*"Among high school athletes the social group dominates as the best predictor of substance use (Underwood, 2009)."*

The Access to Excellence Initiative is designed to help keep the youth of our community healthy and safe, this policy stipulates that:

The Town of South Kingstown is committed to keeping the youth of the community healthy and safe. To this end, a diverse group of community leaders has worked together to develop an initiative called "Access to Excellence" which focuses on improving the academic, emotional, and physical well being of our student athletes. This will be accomplished by providing scientific information about the illegal possession, consumption, and distribution of alcoholic beverages and illicit drugs and the effects they have on athletic performance and brain development. Access to Excellence will provide education and guidelines for coaches and athletes regarding the use of illegal possession, consumption, and distribution of alcoholic beverages and illicit drugs. Student athletes will be subject to specific consequences for engaging in behavior that risks his/her own safety and the safety of others.

Access to Excellence is about athletes and coaches being dedicated, focused, and committed to doing what is required to succeed on and off the field. It is about parents who set and support standards which are in the best interest of their children. It is about community leaders who are committed to protecting the health and safety of our youth now and in the future.

Access to Excellence is a comprehensive initiative based on research conducted by the American Athletic Institute. At its core is a set of expectations for all student athletes that is fair and reasonable and will hold student athletes accountable for their decisions.

## **C. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENT ATHLETES**

### **1. Expectations for all student athletes**

Student athletes compromise their participation in athletics when they use substances. Student athletes who experiment with or possess, consume or distribute alcoholic beverages and/or illicit substances jeopardize program morale, reputation, and success. They do physical harm to themselves and risk personal injury and harm to others. Student athletes *must* make the commitment not to possess, consume or distribute alcoholic beverages and illicit drugs and to refrain from being in the presence of such substances.

In order to ensure the highest possible standards of learning, as well as assuring the maintenance of the highest possible level of safety, health, and well-being for all student athletes, the South Kingstown School Committee endorses a chemical health policy which:

- Provides student athletes with information and activities focused on preventing them from possessing, consuming and distributing alcoholic beverages and illicit drugs. Prevention activities will be centered on instructional programs, guidance and counseling, school climate, and family and community involvement.
- Contains restorative measures.
- Takes active disciplinary action when necessary.

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this document the term “illicit drugs” shall be defined in accordance with the RI Controlled Substance Act (Drug Laws) 21-28-1.01 and shall include the misuse of prescription and over-the-counter medications.

THIS POLICY IS SUPPORTED BY THE FOLLOWING RI GENERAL LAWS: 3-8-6; 3-8-9; 3-8-10; 31-27-2; 31-27-2.1; 31-272.4; 31-27-2.7; 21-28-1.01. FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.RILIN.STATE.RI.US/STATUTES](http://WWW.RILIN.STATE.RI.US/STATUTES)



## **2. Cigarette, Cigar, and Smokeless Tobacco**

Student athletes who use tobacco products, including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars or smokeless tobacco, will be in violation of school rules whether the infraction occurred during the school day, at a school activity, or on school property. Any student athlete found to be in violation will be subject to school sanctions per the South Kingstown High School Handbook.

## **3. Drug-Free Zone**

The use of, being under the influence of, intoxication, possession, and/or sale/distribution of alcoholic beverages and/or illicit substances and/or paraphernalia associated with substance use is prohibited within the South Kingstown school buildings, in school vehicles or on school grounds at any time, including during school hours and at school sponsored activities. This policy also affects persons within the established drug-free zones (on school property) during non-school hours, vacations, and all activities on-site, etc.

A drug-free zone has been established by the office of the Attorney General to include any boundaries that mark the end of the school perimeter. It is further stated by the Attorney General's Office, persons convicted of distribution or manufacturing of a controlled substance on public school grounds shall be punished by a term of imprisonment or a fine or both, up to twice the amount as authorized by RIGL 21-284.01(A) or 21-28-4.07. This policy is inclusive and prohibits the use of illicit substances. Due process procedures governing suspension shall be applied.

## **4. Alcoholic Beverages and Illicit Substances**

Student athletes are considered in violation of this Chemical Health Policy if they use, unlawfully possess, consume (including being under the influence of) and/or distribute alcoholic beverages and/or illicit drugs (see Year Round Expectations), whether during school, at any school activity, on school property, or at locations off school property. This policy makes exceptions for situations where alcohol is being consumed as part of a religious ceremony or ethnic custom, and also for student athletes who lawfully use or possess for their own personal use, a medication prescribed for their own use by a physician.

## **5. Being “In the Presence of” Illegally Possessed, Consumed or Distributed Alcoholic Beverages and/or Illicit Substances**

If a student is in a situation where alcohol and/or illicit substances are being illegally dispensed and/or consumed, the student must leave the location immediately or risk being subject to the related restorative and corrective measures of this chemical health policy. This policy makes exceptions for student-athletes who are lawfully in the presence of alcohol while accompanied by a parent or legal guardian; student-athletes who are in the presence of alcohol while in a public place where alcohol is being lawfully served to adults; and student-athletes who lawfully use, or possess for their own personal use, a medication prescribed for their own use by a physician. This policy makes exceptions for situations where a student athlete is in the presence of alcohol as part of a religious ceremony or ethnic custom.

## **6. Year-round Expectations**

The chemical health policy in South Kingstown School District is in effect year round, in and out of season, on and off the field, in and out of uniform for all student athletes. There is a reason for this . . . *we care about the welfare of our student athletes*. We expect this commitment from student athletes if they want to be involved in South Kingstown athletics.

### **D. INVESTIGATION**

#### **1. Reporting a violation**

Chemical health policy violation(s) may be reported orally or in writing to the principal or to an assistant principal, athletic director, teacher, coach, or school nurse. Anyone receiving a report of violation must inform the principal and athletic director immediately.

#### **2. Process**

The investigation process will transpire as follows:

- The SKHS Athletic Director and the SKHS administrative team will notify the parent/guardian of the student athlete of the suspected violation and seek their cooperation in the investigative process.
- Any suspected violations of this Chemical Health Policy will be investigated as thoroughly as possible in order to ensure fairness to the student athlete involved. In the event that a student athlete comes under investigation it is expected that he/she will be honest, truthful, forthcoming with information, and will cooperate fully with the investigation.
- The SKHS Athletic Director and the SKHS administrative team will interview the student athlete regarding the conduct in question, establish awareness, and will seek his/her cooperation in the investigation.
- The SKHS Athletic Director and the SKHS administrative team will look into any evidence including, but not limited to, statements from other students, statements from a school administrator, coach or teacher to determine whether or not there is sufficient cause to investigate the incident further.
- The SKHS Athletic Director and the SKHS administrative team may seek to obtain information of the violation in question by interviewing other student athletes who have first hand knowledge of the behavior under investigation.

### 3. Confirmation of Violation

Confirmation of the student athlete's violation of the Chemical Health Policy may be provided by, but not limited to, any one of the following:

- An admission by the offending student athlete.
- Substantial and credible evidence with eyewitness support.
- The coach's evaluation of signs, symptoms and/or actions demonstrated by the student athlete that would support the reasonable conclusion of a violation with the support of other substantial and credible evidence or any eyewitness support.

## E. RESTORATIVE AND CORRECTIVE ACTION FOR POLICY VIOLATIONS

Student athletes who fail to comply with the South Kingstown Chemical Health Policy will be subject to the procedures as outlined in this section and may be subject to school sanctions (if applicable) per the South Kingstown High School Handbook. *Penalties will be served concurrently when violation occurs on school property or at school sponsored events.* All violations will be cumulative.

### 1. Restorative and Corrective Action for Being “In the Presence Of” Illegally Possessed, Consumed or Distributed Alcoholic Beverages and/or Illicit Substances

#### A. First Offense:

- The student athlete and parent/guardian will meet with his/her coach and the Athletic Director about the breach of SK's Chemical Health Policy.
- The student athlete will meet with the Student Assistance Counselor regarding the nature of the violation
- The student athlete and parent/guardian will re-sign the Athletic Code.

#### B. Second Offense:

In addition to the actions listed for the First Offense the student athlete will also be required to:

- The student athlete will forfeit his/her captaincy (if applicable).
- Forfeit one game in the season. (He/she may continue to attend practices, scrimmages, and team meetings.) The game suspension will be completed during the athlete's current season. If there is not sufficient time remaining in that season to complete the suspension, it will be carried over to the next interscholastic sport season in which that student participates.

- Meet with the School Resource Officer to discuss his/her policy violation.
- Submit a personal reflection on the importance of this particular section of SK's Chemical Health Policy (i.e. why it is important to avoid situations where alcohol and illicit substances are being illegally dispensed and/or consumed) and what actions he/she specifically can take to prevent this in the future.
- The student athlete will be given the opportunity to apologize to his/her team.

*The student athlete will be reinstated when all of these requirements are met.*

### **C. Third Offense:**

For a third violation (and for any such violations thereafter), the student athlete will be subject to the actions listed in the section entitled "RESTORATIVE AND CORRECTIVE ACTION FOR ILLEGALLY POSSESSING, CONSUMING OR DISTRIBUTING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND/OR ILLICIT SUBSTANCES (E-2), commencing with the requirements outlined for the first such offense and continuing forward within that section for all subsequent offenses.

## **2. RESTORATIVE AND CORRECTIVE ACTION FOR ILLEGALLY POSSESSING, CONSUMING OR DISTRIBUTING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND/OR ILLICIT SUBSTANCES**

### **A. First Offense:**

- The student athlete will be suspended from 20% of the games in the season; however he/she may continue to attend practices, scrimmages, and team meetings. The game suspension will be completed during the athlete's season. If there is not sufficient time remaining in that season to complete the suspension, it will be carried over to the next interscholastic sport season in which that student participates. Students who are subject to Social Probation must also satisfy those requirements prior to regaining eligibility.
- The student athlete will be required to forfeit his/her captaincy for that athletic season.
- The student athlete will meet with the Student Assistance Counselor three times.
- The student athlete will perform five hours of community service, the nature of which must be approved (in writing) by the Athletic Director prior to the commencement of said service.

- As a condition for reinstatement, the student athlete and parent/guardian must meet with the Student Assistance Counselor, Athletic Director and coach to review their commitment to the South Kingstown Chemical Health Policy and to athletic participation. He/she will submit a letter of apology for violating the Chemical Health Policy at this meeting.
- The student athlete and parent/guardian must acknowledge his/her transgression and re-sign the code of conduct in front of teammates and the coaching staff. The student athlete will also be given the opportunity to apologize to his/her team in person or in writing.

*The student athlete will be reinstated when all of these requirements are met.*

#### **A. Second Offense:**

- The student athlete will be suspended from 50% of the games in the season. After ten (10) calendar days, the student may return to the team for meetings or practices/scrimmages only. This suspension will be completed during the athlete's season. If there is not sufficient time remaining in that season to complete the suspension, it will be carried over to the next interscholastic sport season in which that student participates. Students who are subject to Social Probation must also satisfy those requirements prior to regaining eligibility.
- The student athlete will be required to forfeit his/her captaincy and will be ineligible to serve as captain for any athletic team in the future.
- The student athlete will meet with the Student Assistance Counselor a minimum of three times. The Student Assistance Counselor may recommend that the student seek additional independent substance abuse services.
- The student athlete will perform ten hours of community service, the nature of which must be approved (in writing) by the Athletic Director prior to the commencement of said service.
- The student athlete will submit a 500 word reflective essay on the effects of his/her policy violation and related lessons learned to the Student Assistance Counselor.
- As a condition for reinstatement, the student athlete and parent/guardian must meet with the Student Assistance Counselor, Athletic Director and coach to review their commitment to the South Kingstown Chemical Health Policy and to athletic participation. The student will share his/her reflective essay at this meeting.
- The student athlete and parent/guardian must acknowledge his/her transgression, must re-sign the code of conduct in front of teammates and the coaching staff, and will be given the opportunity to apologize to the

team for his/her actions, either in person or in writing.

*The student athlete will be reinstated when all of these requirements are met.*

**D. Third and Subsequent Offense(s):**

- The student athlete will have his/her athletic eligibility suspended for 365 days (one calendar year) from the time of violation.
- Conditions for reinstatement are as follows:
- Student athlete will be required to participate in a substance abuse evaluation (by a licensed substance abuse practitioner) or program at no cost to the School. The Student Assistance Counselor, at the student athlete's (or parent/guardian's) request, may supply a list of referrals. Upon completion of this evaluation and/or program, the student athlete must provide the Student Assistance Counselor with a report of the student athlete's completion of said evaluation/program.
- Completion of 20 hours of community service, the nature of which must be approved (in writing) by the Athletic Director prior to commencement of said service.
- Submission of a 1,000 word personal reflection which describes how his/her policy violations have impacted three of any of the following; his/her team; SK High School; his/her family; his/her friends; the SK community; or himself/herself.
- Student athlete may request (in writing) a review to be reinstated (after serving the 365 day suspension) by the Reinstatement Committee (which shall include, but not be limited to, the Athletic Director, a School administrator, the Student Assistance Counselor, and coach).
- The aforementioned criteria for reinstatement shall be reviewed in total by the Reinstatement Committee.
- The student and parent/guardian will meet with the Reinstatement Committee to discuss its decision.

## **F. APPEAL PROCESS**

Students and/or parents who feel aggrieved because of action taken as a result of any section in these regulations may appeal said action to the school administration level at which the action was taken. Further appeals may be taken to the Superintendent of Schools and finally to the School Committee. Further appeals after the School Committee decision may be taken through the process as defined in Title 16 of the General Laws of Rhode Island.

## **G. REVIEW AND REPORTING**

This policy shall be reviewed in accordance with the school committee policy review process. The Superintendent shall annually provide a report of the A2E data to the School Committee on or about June 30th.

***First Reading: February 23, 2010***

***Second Reading/Adoption: March 29, 2010***

## **8. HAZING**

The South Kingstown School Department is committed to maintaining a safe positive, environment for students and staff that is free from hazing. Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational goals of the district and are prohibited to all.

Hazing is not acceptable in any form as defined by Rhode Island law. Any student, who willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person, including a teammate or like member of any other school activity, will be suspended from that team or activity for the remainder of the year and reported to the police department.

Rhode Island Hazing Law

11-21-1 Penalty for Hazing

A. Any organizer of, or participant in, an activity constituting hazing as defined in subsection (b), shall be guilty of misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$500) or punished by imprisonment for not less than thirty (30) days nor more than one year, or both.

The term "hazing" as used in this chapter shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which will fully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include, but not be limited to whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of the student or any other person, or which subjects the student or other person to extreme mental stress,

including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.

Every person, being a teacher, superintendent, commandant or other person in charge of any public, private, parochial, or military school, college or other educational institution, who shall knowingly permit any activity constituting hazing, as defined in 11-21-1 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than ten dollars (\$10.00) or more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

## B. Delegation of Responsibility

Building administrators shall investigate promptly all complaints of hazing and administer appropriate discipline to any individual who violates this policy.

Students, administrators, coaches, sponsors, volunteers and district employees shall be alert to incidents of hazing and shall report such conduct to the building principal.

The district shall annually inform students, parents, coaches, sponsors, volunteers and district staff that hazing of district students is prohibited, by means of:

Distribution of written policy

Publication of handbooks

Presentation at an assembly

Verbal instruction by the coach or sponsor at the start of the season or program

Posting of notice/signs

### Complaint Procedure

1. When a student believes that he/she has been subject to hazing, the student shall promptly report the incident, orally or in writing, to the building principal.
2. The principal shall conduct a timely, impartial, thorough and comprehensive investigation of the alleged hazing.
3. The principal shall prepare a written report summarizing the investigation and recommending disposition of the complaint. Copies of the report shall be provided to the complainant, the accused and other directly involved, as appropriate.
4. If the investigation results in a substantiated finding of hazing, the principal shall recommend appropriate disciplinary action, as circumstances warrant, in accordance with the law. Additionally, the student may be subject to disciplinary action by the coach or sponsor, up to and including removal from the activity.