



SOUTHEAST OHIO
CLASSICAL ACADEMY

Athletic Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct is designed for student athletes and their parents to help define the role of educational athletics at Southeast Ohio Classical Academy (SOCA). The basic goals of Interscholastic Athletics are defined and the policies and regulations necessary to achieve these goals are presented. It is imperative that both the athlete and parent have knowledge of this material.

The athletic program shall be conducted in accordance with existing SOCA policies, rules, and regulations. Athletics are an important component of SOCA's classical education; training the minds and cultivating the hearts of young men and women in moral character and civic virtue. Teaching virtue and wisdom, developing character, and nurturing the child's humanity - spirit, mind and body - with a constant view to the potential adult. **Success**, school **unity**, and **pride** are greatly enhanced by student participation in school-sponsored activities. At all times, the athletic program will be conducted in such a way that it is an educational activity. While the school takes pride in winning, moral victory takes precedence over a win on the court, field, track, etc. Any and all pressures that might lead to neglecting good sportsmanship and good health are discouraged.

Athletic Code

Participation in SOCA athletics is regarded as a privilege and not a right. All athletes shall abide by a code of ethics that will earn them the honor and respect that participation and competition in the interscholastic program affords. Any conduct that results in dishonor to the athlete, team, or school will not be tolerated. Acts of unacceptable conduct tarnish the reputation of everyone associated with the athletic program.

When a student voluntarily participates in interscholastic athletics, he/she agrees to abide by the Athletic Code of Conduct throughout his/her athletic career. The Code of Conduct begins with a student's first day of participation in interscholastic athletics and continues through their date of graduation and is in effect during vacation breaks, summer recess, and off-season times.

Requirements for Participation

1. **Physical Examination:** A yearly physical examination is required and must be submitted to the office before a student can participate in practice and contests. The examination covers all sports for the entire school year provided it was administered after April 15. The form will be kept on file at SOCA.
2. **Emergency Medical Authorization:** An Emergency Medical Authorization sheet must be completed giving permission for treatment by a physician or hospital when a parent is not available (part of physical form). The information will be kept with the head coach for availability at all practices and contests. Please note that SOCA does not carry insurance to cover student athletic injuries.
3. **Parental Acknowledgement of Athletic Policies:** Each parent/guardian and athlete shall read the Athletic Code of Conduct and certify that they understand the athletic eligibility rules and policies of SOCA. This signed document will be kept on file at SOCA.
4. **Scholastic Eligibility:** In order to participate in SOCA athletics, each athlete must meet the academic requirements. In elementary and junior high, students that fail two subjects at the end of a grading period (nine week quarters) are ineligible from athletics for the next quarter. In high school, students must meet the OHSAA minimum requirements.
5. **Equipment Responsibilities:** All athletes are responsible for the proper care and security of equipment issued to them. School furnished equipment is to be worn only for contests and practice. All equipment not returned in good condition at the end of the season will be subject to a financial penalty.

Objectives of the Southeast Ohio Classical Academy Athletic Program

1. **To pursue moral victory over scoreboard victory:** True success is measured not merely in points, but in the athlete's display of teamwork, self-discipline, work ethic, and personal sacrifice, the virtues that stand at the heart of every SOCA team. The good of the team surpasses individual acclaim.
2. **To cultivate sportsmanship:** Athletes are trained to act with honesty, self-control, and a spirit of cooperation, responding to both triumph and trial with composure and integrity.
3. **To practice humility:** Win or lose, the SOCA athlete carries oneself with dignity and perspective. Humility is not weakness but strength rightly ordered—and a defining mark of our teams.
4. **To instill respect for one's opponent:** The true competitor honors the game by appreciating the strength and skill of others. Respect deepens the contest and elevates all involved.

5. **To honor the game itself:** Athletes are taught to uphold the rules and traditions of their sport with integrity, playing with freedom, focus, and a desire to compete beyond oneself.
6. **To promote physical fitness as a lifelong virtue:** Athletics at SOCA will develop strong, capable, and healthy individuals. A sound body, a clear mind, and an indomitable spirit serve not just the game, but a lifetime of good living.
7. **To teach grace under pressure:** Sport provides a proving ground for facing challenges with resilience and joy. Through the competitive nature of athletics, students grow in fortitude and self-mastery.

Athletic Training Rules

1. **Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs:** Any student using and/or possessing alcohol, tobacco, or drugs, or any illegal performance enhancing drugs or substances shall be in violation. This rule is in effect twelve months of the year. Students in the presence of illegal activity may also receive penalties.
 - **Penalty for Violation:** The Athletic Director and Principal shall meet to determine the penalty according to the degree of the infraction. Other consequences may be implemented due to the seriousness of the infraction.
 - **1st Violation** – The student will be suspended immediately from a minimum of two contests. If the penalty is not fully administered during that sports season, the remainder of the penalty will be applied to the next interscholastic sport season in which the athlete participates.
 - **2nd Violation** – The student will be suspended immediately from a minimum of 50% of the scheduled contests in the sport. If the penalty is not fully administered during that sports season, the remainder of the penalty will be applied to the next interscholastic sport season in which the athlete participates.
 - **3rd Violation** – The student will be suspended from participation in athletics for the remainder of the season as well as the next full season in which the athlete would normally have participated. *This is the minimum penalty.*
2. **School Discipline:** Any student-athlete referred to the office of the principal for a school rules violation may be denied the privilege of participation in all athletic activities for a period determined by the principal and athletic director.
3. **Fighting or Flagrant Unsportsmanlike Conduct:** Fighting, taunting, or displaying any sort of poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated. Any athlete that receives a technical, red card, or ejection must meet with the athletic director to discuss the behavior.

4. **Coach's Rules:** Coaches may establish additional rules and regulations for their respective sport with the approval of the athletic director. These additional rules will be stated in writing and explained fully at the start of the season.
5. **Dropping from a Team:** Quitting is an unacceptable habit. A quitter may lose the privilege of participating in athletics. On occasion, however, an athlete may find it necessary to drop a sport for a good reason. If this is the case the following procedure must be followed:
 1. Consult with the Head Coach.
 2. Consult with the Athletic Director.
 3. Check in all equipment.
6. **Missing Practice:** An athlete must consult with the coach before missing practice. Missing practice (or a game) without good reason will be dealt with by the coach. Please avoid scheduling any appointments or events during practice or contests. Communicate any planned absences as soon as possible.
7. **Travel:** All athletes must travel to and from out-of-town athletic contests in transportation arranged by the athletic department, unless previous arrangements are made by the parent. A transportation permission form must also be on file annually with the front office. Athletes may return home with a parent after a contest provided a note signed by the parent is given to the coach or direct communication occurs with the coach. Athletes will remain with their team under the supervision of the coach until the end of the contest. Unless there is an exceptional situation athletes are not to leave a contest early.
8. **Grooming and Dress Policy:** An athlete shall dress presentably at all times, such as on trips, at assemblies, and banquets. Only uniforms issued by the school will be worn for contests. Athletes must follow sport specific jewelry and uniform rules.
9. **Conflicts with Extracurricular Activities:** The athletic department recognizes that all students should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences and extracurricular activities and will attempt to schedule school events in a manner to minimize conflicts. Students have the responsibility to avoid continuing conflicts. They must also immediately notify the coaches involved when a conflict arises. Students that participate on non-school teams must communicate with the school coach to determine an agreed upon schedule for the season. In general, school sports take precedent over non-school sports or activities.
10. **School Attendance:** Students must be in attendance at least the second half of the school day in order to participate in a contest or practice. Students missing a half or full day of school to participate in an athletic contest must fill out a prearranged absence form in advance. All work should be made up at the discretion of the teacher. If a detention

should be served on the day it is given, the student may be ineligible for practice or competition on that day. Final authority for infractions of this rule will rest with the principal.

11. **Vacation Policy:** Taking a vacation during a sports season is discouraged. In the event of an unavoidable absence for a vacation an athlete must communicate with the coach well in advance and be willing to assume consequences related to his/her status on the team (as a starter, if applicable).
12. **Reporting of Injury:** All injuries should be reported to the head coach. If the injury requires medical attention by a doctor, the athlete must obtain the doctor's written permission to return to the activity. SOCA athletes may seek evaluation from the SOCA Trainers by appointment.
13. **Social Media:** All school or personal use of social media should be conducted in a responsible and respectful manner.
14. **Hazing:** All student-athletes should treat their fellow teammates with the utmost respect at all times. Absolutely no hazing is allowed.

Philosophy on Winning

At Southeast Ohio Classical Academy, winning is a worthy goal, but it is not the highest one. Victory in competition is valuable, but moral victory takes precedence. Our foremost aim is the formation of human character. We pursue this by striving for excellence in sport and carrying ourselves with honor, discipline, and virtue.

1. **Moral Victory Through the Pursuit of Excellence:** True victory lies in dedicating ourselves wholeheartedly to what is good. For us, that good is the craft of athletics, an arena where the habits of courage, responsibility, and perseverance are formed. When we pursue excellence in training, preparation, and play, we are not only becoming better athletes; we are becoming better men and women – this is *the highest good*.
2. **Victory in Competition, Rightly Ordered:** The desire to win is not disordered by pride, vanity, or selfish ambition. The athlete understands that winning is *a good*, but not *the highest good*. Winning is a sign of preparation and effort, but it must be earned with integrity. In competition, we play the right way, upholding our core virtues whether or not we are being watched. We win with humility and lose with dignity, always knowing that our character is on display as much as our skill.

3. **Excellence in the Details:** Doing things the right way in every moment and in every task is our daily aim. We pay attention to the smallest details because these are the building blocks of trust, consistency, and excellence. By winning the small battles, we become reliable teammates and stronger individuals.

Participation Guidelines

Youth: Participation in youth athletics is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of sport in a joyful and structured environment. The goal at this level is to instill a love for movement, build foundational skills, and instill good habits in sport. At this level, athletes are encouraged to play as many sports and the emphasis is placed on learning the game, trying one's best, and developing their character through play – attributes that will serve the students on and off the field or court. All eligible students will be given meaningful opportunities to participate in practices and contests.

Middle School: Participation in middle school athletics is an introduction to interscholastic sports. Skill development, sportsmanship, and team philosophy are important goals at this level. SOCA will provide an opportunity for all students to participate. Playing time is guaranteed to all eligible team members during each contest, but not equally.

Junior Varsity (JV): This is a transition year between the junior high and varsity competition. The level of intensity at practice as well as in contests will be increased. The commitment and dedication to the team and sport also must increase. The athlete will be given the opportunity to earn playing time through the demonstration of increased skills at practice and dedication to the team. Every attempt will be made to give each team member playing time, but playing time will not be equal for each player. Eighth graders may be placed on JV teams.

Varsity: Varsity level athletic teams are the focal point of the SOCA athletic program. To be a part of a varsity team is an honor in itself that must be earned. At this level there is no guarantee of playing time. The intensity of the competition will determine when the best athletes will be on the field, court, track or course. There will be no cuts, however, when both varsity and junior varsity teams are offered students will be placed on the appropriate team as deemed necessary by the coaches. Eighth graders may be placed on varsity or junior varsity teams on a case by case basis to help maintain a competitive healthy roster. This will be determined by the coaches and athletic director.

Resolving Athletic Issues

If you have a concern to discuss with a coach:

1. **Encourage the athlete to solve his or her own problems first with the coach.**

2. Call the coach to set up an appointment.
3. Do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. It is recommended that you wait 24 hours before discussing an issue.

If an athlete has a concern with another athlete:

1. A conflict resolution meeting will be held between the two athletes with at least 12 hours notice in advance. This meeting will be held during a break in school, (snack break, lunch, etc.) before or after practice, or on the athletes' own time.
2. Call the coach to set up an appointment.

In either scenario, 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.

Dual Participation

Students are allowed to participate in more than one sport each season. In such a case the student-athlete, his/her parents, the coaches, and athletic director must meet to discuss and design the practice/contest schedule for the athlete. A primary and secondary sport must be designated.

Physical Education and Participation

All student-athletes who are in PE must participate in all activities during class, regardless of after school practices or game commitments. If modifications need to be made the student should speak with the instructor.

Uniform Policy

All school issued uniforms and equipment are to be used for athletic contests and practices ONLY. These items are not to be worn in PE class, in school, in the community, or at home. The only exception is if an entire team wears their school-issued apparel for a special occasion approved by the coach. Lost or damaged items may result in a fine.

Athletic Fee Schedule

- Participation in Youth Sports (K-6) requires a fee of \$25 per athlete in one sport season of participation (Fall, Winter, or Spring). If participating in two or more sport seasons, a \$50 fee is required. Each athlete will be responsible for the purchase of their own uniforms. Uniform order sheets will be provided.
- Participation in Middle School (7-8) and High School (9-12) Sports requires a fee of \$50 per athlete for one sport season of participation. If participating in two or more sport seasons, a \$100 fee is required. Each athlete will be given a uniform that must be returned upon completion of the last competition of the season.
- If there is a dual athlete (student participating in more than one sport within one sport season) they will only be charged for one sport.
- No household shall exceed a total of \$200 in sport participation fees in one school year.

.....(please cut and return to athletic office).....

**We have read and understand the Southeast Ohio Classical Academy
Athletic Code of Conduct and agree to comply.**

_____	_____
Student Name	Grade
_____	_____
Student Signature	Date
_____	_____
Parent/Guardian Signature	Date