



2026-2027
ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT



Athletic Code of Conduct Notification Letter

Dear Parents:

This booklet contains the Athletic Code of Conduct for Somerset Academy Collegiate. It is designed to inform you and your athlete of the type of conduct expected in Somerset Academy Collegiate. It is important that you and your athlete review this information together so that you will clearly understand the rules of acceptable conduct and the consequences of violations of established rules. With your support and encouragement, I am confident your student will meet behavioral expectations of the Somerset Academy Collegiate Program. Those who fail to do so may expect to experience normal discipline consequences, suspension, or removal from the athletic program.

Please sign the back page of this booklet so that we may know that you have received and reviewed this Code of Conduct with your athlete. Please tear out and return the completed form to your athlete's coach. The athlete will not compete in a contest until this form has been turned into the coach. If you have any questions relating to this Athletic Code of Conduct, please email me.

Sincerely,

Joel Sofet

Athletic Director

Code of Conduct: Athletics 2026-2027

Athletics is an integral part of the total educational process. There are many lessons to be learned through participation in athletics – lessons that will help you long into your adult life and after your athletic career is over. The daily practices of self-discipline, hard work, respect for authority and teammates, responsibility to your team and cooperation to work, responsibility to achieve a common goal are just a few lessons which will smooth your transition into adulthood, as well as make us a great team! Participation in athletics is a privilege. Students who take advantage of this privilege by failing to practice responsibility to the team, or follow team policy, may lose their athletic privilege.

Acceptable conduct is important because an athlete is an integral part of a team concept, and his/her behavior reflects the entire program. Furthermore, when an athlete competes against another school at their site, he/she represents our school and all that it stands for. Striving to earn respect for yourself, your school and your community should be a primary goal for all who participate in athletics.

The Interscholastic athletic program shall be conducted in accordance with existing school board policy rules and regulations. While we take great pride in winning, we do not condone “winning at any cost” and we discourage any and all pressures which might tend to neglect good sportsmanship and good mental health. At all times, the athletic program must be conducted in such a way to justify it as an educational activity and opportunity.

It is your responsibility to read through and understand the team rules that are enclosed to reduce the likelihood of a misunderstanding. If you see a rule and you do not understand, it is your responsibility to see the coaches and get clarification. It is important that we cover these rules so that everyone knows what to expect in certain situations. We expect the very best from you at all times. As set forth in this Athletic Code of Conduct, major disciplinary actions involving a Somerset Academy Collegiate student-athlete almost always result in a 1-game suspension for the first infraction, then 2 game suspension for the second infraction, and then removal from all athletics for the remainder of the school year for the third infraction. All Somerset Academy Collegiate student athletes are expected to abide by the following guidelines.

Note: The Athletic Department is not, and will not be held, responsible for any personal items lost, stolen, or damaged.

ATHLETIC FEE:

The 2026-2027 athletic sports fee will be due **2 weeks** from the start of the season. The athletic sports fee can be paid by cash, check, or card. If you pay with card, there will be a processing fee of **5%**. Payments should go to the Athletic Director or the Athletic secretary (Sonni Rodriguez) only. The fee for students playing football is \$200 and the fee for students NOT playing football is \$125. **If student is playing more than one sport the fees will go as follows:**

First sport: \$125

Second sport: \$100

Third sport: \$75

Any Additional Sports: \$75

Fees must be paid on time. If not paid by the 2nd week of the season, we reserve the right to not allow the student to participate. Failure to pay a fee on time will result in removal from an activity until the fee is paid. Also, a student athlete will not be allowed to try out or begin a new athletic season until the Athletic Fee for that activity is paid up to date. By paying this fee, it does not guarantee a right to play in a contest. However, it does provide an opportunity to be part of a successful program that will help enrich a student athlete's future development. Fee waivers requests may be submitted in accordance with the procedure set forth in the Student Handbook.

ATHLETICS CLASS:

All Athletes (Grades 6-12) who want to participate in any sport need to be in the athletic class, unless waived by the coach and Athletic Director due to extenuating circumstances, from the start of school (August) until the end (May). It is important for each athlete, in preparing themselves for the upcoming sport, to be involved in an off-season weight training and conditioning program. Once you are in the Athletic class, you are expected to stay in the class. **Seniors, who are finished with their sports participation, may be required to change schedules by the coach and Athletic Director.** This may be subject to school admin and counseling team approval if for mid-semester schedule changes. Athletes are required to dress out and wear proper attire for class. This includes no jewelry and no gum, and proper uniform. **Failure to do so may result in extra conditioning. (i.e. Towels).**

ALCOHOL:

No student athlete, while on or off campus, sell, give, deliver, use, possess or be under the influence of alcohol.

The school will follow the code of conduct for any alcohol use.

In addition, the Athletic Department has a zero-tolerance policy for alcohol.

APPEARANCE:

Hair should not exceed the shirt collar or block eyes during practices and games – please pull your hair back or up. No excessive piercings. Tattoos must always be covered during practices and games. All other forms of dress code will be in compliance with the school's policy.

ARRESTS:

Citations or arrests on or off campus in regard to smoking, using/selling or possession of illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, drinking alcoholic beverages, vandalism or any behavior which causes embarrassment to the team or Somerset Academy Collegiate may result in suspension or dismissal from the extracurricular program. Any member of extracurricular organization must notify the head coach, director or sponsoring staff member immediately upon any arrest or citation. Failure to notify the staff member responsible for the program may result in suspension or dismissal from the program.

ATTENDING SCHOOL AND ALL WORKOUTS EVERYDAY:

Student-Athletes are required to attend all of their classes and workouts every day, unless they are too physically sick to come to school. If you are going to miss the after-school workout, you are required to reach out to the coach, so that your absence from athletics will be excused. Be sure a note from the office is sent to your coach so that he/she is aware as well. If you are going to miss practice; you (parent/student) are to send your coach a message or email. If you miss a workout, you may be required to make up the conditioning you missed during your absence. Coaches reserve the right to revoke playing privileges until make-up work is done, when necessary. Both excused and unexcused absences must be made up. If you make your own decision not to practice without the consent of the coach, playing time on the next contest may or will be decided at the discretion of the coach. Excessive absences may jeopardize your position, role on the team, or even opportunity within the program. All Athletes who need to tutoring will be excused from practice once tutoring is finished; Athletes can return to practice with a note from the teacher. Athletes who miss the school day may not attend practice or games that day without proper documentation for your excuse. This also requires clearance from the Athletic Director.

BANQUET AND AWARDS:

The Somerset Academy Collegiate Athletic Department hosts two banquets sponsored by the Somerset Academy Collegiate Booster club, one in the fall, one for Elementary and one in the spring. Each Athlete is given one ticket and 2 guests are invited to attend. Extra tickets may be

purchased for extra cost. Athletic awards are awarded by the coaches, subject to final approval by the Athletic Director. Athletes must finish the entire season to receive an award.

BE ON TIME:

Boys/Girls must be present for class when the first bell rings. If a student is marked absent, whether excused or non-excused, the student athlete may not under any circumstance participate in **practice or competitions** the day of absence. A student who leaves campus without clearance from the office will be considered truant, and consequences will be given.

Being on time for practice, pre-game meetings, athletics class, and all scheduled meetings is a mandatory requirement of the program. If you cannot be on time, it is your responsibility to contact the coach to let him/her know exactly where you are and why you will be absent or late. **Sending a note or a message with someone else is not acceptable.**

BEHAVIOR AND CONDUCT:

Be a class act in everything you do. Look and act like you have pride in yourself and the fact that you are a Somerset Academy Collegiate Athlete. Take pride in yourself and the leadership role you have at Somerset Academy Collegiate as a student-Athlete. Everything you do speaks of you and our program. Everything you do is a representation of yourself and your family and the Somerset Academy Collegiate Department. Think before you act. As a student-athlete, you should act in a manner that reflects class, self-discipline, and manners. **There will be no foul language in our program at any time (practices, classroom, games, etc.) NO**

Behaviors that are identified by the Texas Education Code, Section 37.007, may also result in suspension or dismissal of a student from the athletic program. Students must remain aware that being a part of an extracurricular activity is considered an honor and a privilege and not a right. Therefore, it requires observance of all discipline policies whether or not a student is at school or school-related activities.

The discipline consequences for violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct may include suspension or dismissal of the student from the athletic program. Such actions shall be taken by coaches, directors or sponsors only after consultation with the campus athletic coordinator (where appropriate) and/or school administration. A behavioral contract may also be used following various infractions. Consequences for some rule violations may be addressed by coaches through discipline within the student's program. Additional disciplinary consequences can also be imposed by the appropriate school officials for conduct or behavior that violates the District's Code of Student Conduct.

Note: If the offense occurs during the summer, the suspension from activities will begin with the first week of competition/activity.

If the offense occurs during the sport season or period of extracurricular activity, the suspension will begin with the next competition or extracurricular activity as determined by the coach, director or sponsor.

EXCEPTIONS.

Student- Athletes are expected to treat all teammates, players, coaches, staff, parents, and administration at all times with the upmost respect. A “Yes sir” and “No ma’am”, are expected from Athletes when talking to staff and coaches.

CELL PHONES:

Somerset Academy Collegiate has adopted a No cell phone policy and there are no exceptions to this rule. This includes no cell phone use on the bus while traveling to competitions, coach can pick up phones at any time, parent communication is with coach during these times, through Parent Square.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT:

The purpose of being a student-athlete is a reward within itself. Athletes are expected to be role models both on and off the field. The classroom is a prime example of when this needs to occur. Our program expects our athletes, at the teacher’s discretion, to sit in the front of class to obtain as much learning as possible. The Athletic program also expects, at the Athletic Director’s discretion, to sit in the front 2 rows of class to set an example as being role models. Any other placements in the classroom that could lead to becoming a distraction to others and themselves will not be tolerated. You are the future law-abiding citizens of our nation. Once your athletic days are over, your education will be what you have to fall back on. Give yourself an opportunity to achieve greatness in life.

All athletes will observe all disciplinary rules established for the conduct of students based on the Somerset Academy Collegiate student handbook. Any athlete who gets a written discipline referral will serve their consequence from the school and athletics.

Discipline Referral: Failure to abide by school policies and procedures by the instructor will require the use of the 3 strike policy set by the Athletic Department. For more information scroll down to Flagrant violation.

Fighting in school or at school-related activities will be punishable according to the Somerset Academy Collegiate guidelines. All incidents will be reviewed by a committee and dealt with independently in athletics.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION:

If a situation arises in which there is a disagreement between coach and player/parent, the following steps must be followed to resolve the situation.

Junior High / High School

1. Student/Guardian should talk to the coach about concerns.
2. Student/Guardian should talk to the Head Coach of that sport about concerns.
3. Student/Guardian should talk to the Athletic Director about concerns.
4. If necessary, the Student/Guardian can inform the Principal of the situation in writing or by email.
5. If necessary, the Principal will call together all parties for a meeting to resolve any conflicts.

CONTINUOUS PARTICIPATION IN A SPORT:

Athletes will need to be consistent in participation of sports. Athletes may, or may not, be allowed to continue participating in specific sports if there is a “try out, then quit, then come back and play again” mentality. The head coach of that sport and Athletic Director will be the discretion of whether or not the athlete will be allowed to play continuously.

DRESS CODE:

Student athletes will follow the Somerset Academy Collegiate student handbook on dress code. This includes No Crocs or Slides.

ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible for athletics, the athlete must follow all TSCAAL rules for each sport, and T.E.A. rules for academics.

Athletes who fail the nine-week cycle will become ineligible and placed on academic probation for three weeks. At the three-week point, the athlete must be passing **all classes** in order to regain eligibility. If failure continues, the athlete remains ineligible until each three-week grading term is up for eligibility opportunities. Athletes who fail to emphasize their academic eligibility may eventually be removed from the team if continued. During the period of ineligibility, the athlete **must** continue to practice, but may not attend, travel, or participate in a contest with the team. Failure to attend practice may constitute dismissal from the team. The athlete, however, may participate in an organized scrimmage within the team practice.

Athletes will be expected to maintain eligibility throughout the school year. This includes when the athlete is “out of season”.

Student athletes may not leave school early for any games or tournaments if failing any academics courses.

Student athletes will report to “Mandatory Tutoring” on dates and times set by their coaches. If the athlete fails to meet academic requirements, the following protocol will be in effect:

--Parent/Guardian Contact

--Parent/Guardian Contact + Coaches Meeting

--Parent/Guardian Contact + Coaches Meeting + Administration Meeting

--Re-Evaluation of student-athlete and possible dismissal of the athletic program

FLAGRANT VIOLATIONS/ACCOUNTIBILITY (3 STRIKE POLICY):

(Examples: Stealing, Vandalism, Hazing, Ejection from Contest, Unsportsmanlike Conduct, Excessive Profanity, any type of Extreme Anarchism, Use of Tobacco Products/Drugs, Excessive Referrals, Excessive Absences/Tardiness, Unacceptable Verbal/Nonverbal Conflicts between Players/Coaches, ISS or Out of School Suspension, fighting, getting personal device taken up (i.e. cell phone, laptop, tablet, headphones/earbuds)

Athletes will be required to uphold our expectations to full capacity. Any type of behavior or actions that jeopardize our program will not be tolerated. Athletes will be given a 3-strike policy in order to maintain status in the athletic program. It is your responsibility to assure that the expectations and goals of our program is your primary purpose.

Strikes must be signed and returned before participation in the next game.

*****First Warning:***

-Warning in lieu of first strike is at discretion of athletic director/Administration and reserve the option to skip the warning and head straight to first strike based on the conduct at issue.

-Notification by phone or letter to parents; Signed letter by Athletic Director, parent and player.

-Extra conditioning following the next practice

*****First Strike:***

-Notification by phone or letter to parents; Signed letter by Athletic Director, parent and player.

-Suspension from one (1) contest

-Extra conditioning following the next practice

-All practices and team activities must be attended throughout suspension to be eligible to compete in the next contest

-NOTE: ALL SUSPENSION TIME MUST INCLUDE COMPETITIVE COMPETITION

*****Second Strike:***

-Coach, Administrator, Athletic Director (Support Committee) will have conference with parents; Signed letter by Athletic Director, parent and player.

-Suspension from two (2) contests.

-Extra conditioning following the next practice

-All practices and team activities must be attended throughout suspension to be eligible to compete in the next contest

NOTE: ALL SUSPENSION TIME MUST INCLUDE COMPETITIVE COMPETITION

*****Third Strike:***

--Coach, Administrator, Athletic Director will have conference with parents; Signed letter by Athletic Director, parent and player.

-Meeting analysis for dismissal/removal of athlete from the athletic program

-Signed approval of dismissal from the Parents/Guardians, Athletic Director, and Administrator

GAMEDAY DRESS:

Athletes will dress up according to the coaches' preferences approved by the Athletic Department. This may include Sunday Best (no jeans), Jerseys with Khaki bottoms or warm ups provided by Athletic Department on days leaving early for a tournament etc.

ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES:

No athletic participant shall, while on or off campus, sell, give, deliver, use, possess, or be under the influence of any controlled or otherwise illegal substance.

The school will follow the code of conduct for any possession of illegal substances.

In addition, the Athletic Department has a zero tolerance policy for illegal substances.

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION:

The consequence for being placed in ISS will be determined by the student Code of Conduct as well as the Athletic Director. An athlete may not be released from ISS to participate in an athletic contest. If an athlete is given ISS any day of the school week, they are suspended for the next contest following the placement.

INJURIES: NOTIFY A COACH IF YOU ARE INJURED OR ILL:

If you get hurt in practice or in a game, notify the coach before you go home. It is important to report an injury in a timely manner. If the student is injured while playing (practice or a game/meet), the school has insurance, but a form must be filled out and investigated. Your safety and health are always the number one priority. If you are injured and capable, you are still required to attend the practice and watch so when you are physically able to return to play you will know what to do. Being injured does not excuse an athlete from practices/games, it is encouraged to attend. If you are too sick or injured to attend practice, you may be considered too sick or injured to play; a doctor's note will be required.

LETTERMAN JACKETS:

Must play in a minimum of one **Varsity** game. The Athletic Department will approve letterman sport patches chosen. Letterman will be purchased by the Athlete's family.

PHYSICALS:

A physical examination is required to be done yearly for all students wanting to try out and participate in Athletics. An up-to-date physical is required prior to trying out for any sport. The physical must use the proper form provided by the school. If the athlete has asthma, an updated Asthma Action Plan is required for the Athletic Department to have on file. This is a state requirement.

PLAYING TIME:

Playing time is based on attendance, effort, skill and sportsmanship demonstrated during practice: Behavior during school is also a deciding factor. This also will include Athletes i-ready progress and scores. Any discussion about playing time must happen 24-48 hours after the contest. Playing time may not be equal every game. There will be mandatory tutoring once a week for all teams in season. **Failure to attend could result in loss of playing time.**

PRACTICE:

Athletes are required to be at all practices. Practices are closed to parents to watch. Students may miss practice to go to tutoring. Athletes must communicate with coaches and return to practice with a note. Students may be sat out of practice due to their Grade, I-Ready progress and scores.

PRACTICING WHILE ACADEMICALLY INELIGIBLE:

Any athlete becoming academically ineligible during a sport who **fails to continue to practice during that ineligibility** will not be allowed to participate in that sport unless the head coach of that sport and Athletic Director waives the rule.

QUITTING OF A SPORT:

Any athlete quitting a sport in season, will not be allowed to join another sport the rest of the school year.

SOCIAL NETWORKING, WEBSITES, AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION:

Maintaining a higher standard of conduct will also include ensuring that Somerset Academy Collegiate extracurricular participants' personal electronic communication is appropriate. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication including, but not limited to, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, YouTube, Facebook, photo sharing, inappropriate texting that is published or appearing on the internet is public domain even if it is marked private. Extracurricular participants are responsible for texting and electronic communications on the internet through their personal websites as well as postings on other students' websites. The areas of appropriateness will include, but are not limited to, language (abbreviated or alluding to negative, lewd, vulgar or obscene comments about any individuals), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, and reference to alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. Communication on the internet or by electronic means by extracurricular participants that are published and as a result cause disruption or damage to school district property at Somerset Academy Collegiate Academy or another school district are also inappropriate.

Any member of the Somerset Academy Collegiate athletic program who is involved in inappropriate, disruptive, negative, lewd, obscene, or sexual pictures, comments, or statuses on any social networks such as, but not limited to, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, YouTube or Facebook may result in suspension or dismissal from the athletic program.

Comments or Posts made towards, coaches, players or opponents are not acceptable and may be punishable by the school and/or Athletic Policy.

STOLES:

Athletic stoles are provided by the Athletic department at graduation. Athletes must participate in the sport as a member of the Varsity team to receive an Athletic stole. Athletics will sign off that all sports participated in are correct.

THEFT:

Any extracurricular participant guilty of theft on campus will be subject to consequences plus he/she will also face the following consequences:

A first offense will result in a 3-6-week suspension of the student from game competition determined by the circumstances involved in the theft. If there are not 3-6 weeks left in that sport season or activity, the balance will be fulfilled in the subsequent sport season or period of extracurricular activity. A contract will be required. A meeting with the Athletic Director,

students' parents, and the student -athlete before they may return. Also discipline actions according to the student code of conduct.

A second offense will result in dismissal of the student from extracurricular participation for the remainder of the school year. Another contract will be required. A meeting with the Athletic Director, students' parents, and the student -athlete before participation in any other athletic program.

A third offense will result in dismissal of the student from middle school or high school extracurricular activities.

TOBACCO:

No student athlete participant shall, while on or off school premises, use, possess, distribute or be under the influence of tobacco. This includes an electronic cigarette or any other device that simulates smoking by using a mechanical heating element, battery or electronic circuit to deliver nicotine or other substances to the individual inhaling from the device.

The school will follow the code of conduct for any tobacco or e-cigarette use.

In addition, the Athletic Department has a zero-tolerance policy for any type of Tobacco products.

TRANSITION OF ATHLETES AND COACHES FROM ONE SPORT TO ANOTHER:

1. The sport in season shall have priority to athletes over an out-of-season training program.
2. Any student starting a season in a sport will not be permitted to work out with another sport until after the close of the season, unless given a release of permission by the head coach of the sport and Athletic Director.
3. A coach may arrange with a first time athlete in a sport to "try" the sport for two weeks, at which time the athlete would be allowed to drop without penalty.
4. ***An athlete is not allowed to quit one sport to join another.*** If an athlete is currently involved in a sports team, they are to wait until that season is over, unless a waiver is signed and approved by the two coaches of each sport and the Athletic Director.
5. ***Daily attendance will be taken at practices.***

TRAVELING WITH THE TEAM BEFORE & AFTER CONTESTS:

Somerset Academy Collegiate will provide transportation for athletes to some practices (if necessary) and all competitions. If an athlete is to be transported to a contest, it is important that the athlete returns back from the contest with the team. If an athlete is to travel home (with parents/guardians only), they are to notify the coach. Athletes must be signed out by parent before taking them from a contest on the road.

A student athlete MAY NOT use their personal vehicle to transport themselves or any other student athlete to an offsite practice or competition if a bus is provided by the school.

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT:

All uniforms and equipment are property of Somerset Academy Collegiate. All Athletes are required to turn in their uniforms at the end of each season. The Athletes will be held responsible and will pay to replace any lost or unreturned uniforms/ equipment. If not returned, Athlete won't receive their next sports uniforms. Seniors will not receive diploma until all the school's property is returned.

VOLUNTEER HOURS:

Athletes are required 5 hours of volunteering throughout the school. Athletes on High School teams are able to volunteer in the concession stand without a parent. Middle School athletes will need a parent present to volunteer in the concession stand. Helping with the scoreboard, scorebook and chains or lines count as volunteer hours.

2026-2027

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT CONTRACT

Name of Athlete (Printed: First, Middle, Last)_____

All who sign below have read all of the attached information, rules, regulations, and procedures. We, each, agree to abide by this document and the other NFHS, TEA, TSCAAL and Somerset Academy Collegiate documents to which parts of this document refer. Furthermore, as Athletes, we agree to strive for victory in a manner which will bring credit to ourselves, our team, our parents, and the community of Somerset Academy Collegiate. We realize that the younger members of the community look up to us and will copy our actions. Knowing this, we will conduct ourselves in ways that will set a positive example for those who will follow us. This contract begins on the first day of athletic participation, August 1, 2026 and continues until the dismissal of school, June 1, 2027, or throughout the completion of an athletic competition that extends into the summer. **This must be signed and returned before competing in a game.**

Athlete's Signature_____ Date:_____

Guardian's Signature _____ Date:_____

Email

Address:_____

Home Address_____

Home Phone #

Work Phone #