

SAN RAMON VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



2023-24

PARENT-STUDENT GUIDE TO ATHLETICS

EBAL Athletic League: <http://www.eastbayathleticleague.org/>

North Coast Section, CIF: <http://www.cifncs.org/>

California Interscholastic Federation: <http://www.cifstate.org/>

Dougherty Valley High School

Athletic Director/Assistant Principal: SueEllen Thomas

Phone: 925-479-6430

E-mail:

Mascot: Wildcats

Website: dvhs.srvusd.net/Athletics/Wildcat-Athletics/index.html

Athletic Boosters: dvhs.srvusd.net/Athletics/Athletic-Boosters/Athletic-Boosters-Main/index.html

DOUGHERTY VALLEY
HIGH SCHOOL



Monte Vista High School

Athletic Director: Andy Popper

Phone: 925 552-2807

E-mail: npopper@srvusd.net

Mascot: Mustangs

Website: <https://mvhs.srvusd.net/Athletics/Athletics-Overview/index.html>

Athletic Boosters: <https://mvhs.srvusd.net/Athletics/Athletic-Boosters/index.html>



San Ramon Valley High School

Athletic Director: Chris DeClercq

Phone: 925-552-3005

E-mail: cdeclercq@srvusd.net

Mascot: Wolves

Website: <https://srvhs.srvusd.net/Athletics/SRVHS-Athletics/index.html>

Athletic Boosters: <https://srvhs.srvusd.net/Athletics/Athletic-Boosters/index.html>



California High School

Athletic Director: Chad Ross

Phone: 925-803-3249

E-mail: cross@srvusd.net

Mascot: Grizzlies

Website: <https://chs.srvusd.net/Athletics/Cal-High-Athletics/index.html>

Athletic Boosters: <https://chs.srvusd.net/Athletics/Athletic-Boosters/Athletic-Boosters/index.html>



PHILOSOPHY:

Athletics play an important part in San Ramon Valley Unified School District. Young people learn a great deal from their participation in interscholastic athletics. Lessons in sportsmanship, teamwork, competition and how to win and lose gracefully are an integral part of each team in our athletic program. Athletics helps the individual student develop a healthy self-concept as well as a healthy body. Athletic competition adds to our school spirit and helps all students – as participants and as spectators to develop pride in their school.

Board Policy 6145.2 recognizes that the district's athletic program constitutes an integral component of the educational program and helps to build a positive school climate. The athletic program also promotes the physical, social, and emotional well-being and character development of participating students. The athletic program shall be designed to meet students' interests and abilities and shall be varied in scope to attract wide participation.

SEASONS OF SPORT:

Fall <u>Tryouts Begin Aug. 7th</u>	Winter <u>Tryouts Oct. 30th</u>	Spring <u>Tryouts Feb. 5th</u>
Cheerleading, Co-ed	Basketball, Boys	Baseball
Cross Country	Basketball, Girls	Golf, Boys
Football	Song/Pom, Co-ed	Lacrosse, Boys
Flag Football, Girls	Soccer, Boys	Lacrosse, Girls
Golf, Girls	Soccer, Girls	Softball
Tennis, Girls	Wrestling	Swimming & Diving
Volleyball, Girls		Tennis, Boys
Waterpolo, Boys		Softball
Waterpolo, Girls		Track & Field
		Volleyball, Boys
		Beach Volleyball, Girls
		Badminton
		Competitive Cheer (Stunt)

DATES OF DETERMINATION (Academic Eligibility):

1ST QTR Oct. 16th, 2023
2nd QTR, Jan. 12th, 2024
3rd QTR, March 28th, 2024

ATHLETIC CLEARANCE:

Every student-athlete must complete the athletic clearance process prior to participating on any team. A current physical with a medical doctor's (M.D./D.O.) signature is required. The physical is valid for one year from the date of examination. All athletes in SRVUSD must be cleared through AthleticClearance.com prior to tryouts

MEDICAL INSURANCE:

Insurance is the responsibility of the family in accordance with Education Code 32220 et. seq. Low cost medical insurance may be obtained through the school. Contact scorseffi@srvusd.net for more information. It is very important to read the policy and understand what is covered. It may not include ambulance service or other major expenses. Look for deductibles and the percentage of major expenses that are covered. SRVUSD is NOT responsible for insurance covering injuries to athletes when engaged in a school sport.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY:

In order to participate in athletics, **students must earn a 2.0 “C” grade point average (unweighted)** on a 4.0 scale in all enrolled classes AND be on track for graduation. Students must be enrolled in and pass a minimum of 20 semester credits (4 classes). **Spring semester grades count for Fall eligibility on the first day of practice including incoming freshmen. Academic eligibility resets the 2nd working Tuesday after the end of EACH grading period (4 times per year).** Please see above for **DATES of DETERMINATION**. Incomplete grades or NM count as zero until made up. Only one academic probation period may be authorized at the school site, a second waiver must be approved by the Superintendent or designee for students to participate in athletics whose GPA is below 2.0. **Freshmen are ineligible for athletic probation except when waived by the Principal under very exceptional circumstances.**

CIF/NCS TRANSFER ELIGIBILITY:

All transfer students must be approved by NCS. All transfer students are required to meet with the Athletic Director immediately upon their enrollment at their new school for review of the transfer policies. **Eligibility must be established prior to participation.**

EXPRESSING CONCERNS ABOUT A STUDENT’S ATHLETIC EXPERIENCE:

If a parent has a concern, we want you to know we care, and we want to help. We do ask that you please express it at the appropriate time and place. Below is SRVUSD’s Athletic Chain of Command. The District asks that parents please refrain from confronting coaches immediately after games or at practices. All concerns should be addressed first with the coaches involved before proceeding through the Athletic Chain of Command. If you opt to send an anonymous letter or leave a voicemail message without leaving your name, we cannot treat these with any credibility. If you feel it is important to proceed through the Athletic Chain of Command, please help us to help you by identifying yourself and your student.

Parent/guardians and athletes are asked to follow these steps in order until they feel the issue is resolved:

- Have the athlete speak to the coach.
- Arrange an appointment for the parent to speak with the coach. Coaches are expected to respond as quickly as possible.
- If either parent or coach is not satisfied, call or write the Athletic Director and follow the Chain of Command

SRVUSD ATHLETIC CHAIN OF COMMAND



DISTRICT ATHLETIC COORDINATOR:

SRVUSD’s Athletic Coordinator’s responsibility is to support the District’s athletic program and the athletic directors. Dave Kravitz, Director of Student Services, is SRVUSD’s Athletic Coordinator, dkravitz@srvusd.net.

SRVUSD and EBAL have adopted the **16 Principles of “Pursuing Victory with Honor”** (on the next page). Coaches, players and fans are expected to act with honor and are held accountable for representing their school with dignity. **Anyone (athlete, student or adult) not conducting themselves in a positive manner may be ejected from an event and/or suspended from future events.**

Coaches, parents and athletes are also encouraged to view two sportsmanship videos:

[Sportsmanship](#) (a free on-line video course) and [The Role of the Parent in Sports](#) (a free on-line video course)

16 PRINCIPLES OF “PURSUING VICTORY WITH HONOR”:

1. The essential elements of character building and ethics in CIF sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these “six pillars of character.”
2. It’s the duty of School Boards, superintendents, school administrators, parents and school sports leadership – including coaches, athletic administrators, program directors and game officials – to promote sportsmanship and foster good character by teaching, enforcing, advocating and modeling these “six pillars of character.”
3. To promote sportsmanship and foster the development of good character, school sports programs must be conducted in a manner that enhances the academic, emotional, social, physical and ethical development of student-athletes and teaches them positive life skills that will help them become personally successful and socially responsible.
4. Participation in school sports programs is a privilege, not a right. To earn that privilege, student-athletes must abide by the rules and they must conduct themselves, on and off the field, as positive role models who exemplify good character.
5. School Boards, superintendents, school administrators, parents and school sports leadership shall establish standards for participation by adopting and enforcing codes of conduct for coaches, athletes, parents and spectators.
6. All participants in high school sports must consistently demonstrate and demand scrupulous integrity and observe and enforce the spirit as well as the letter of the rules.
7. The importance of character, ethics and sportsmanship should be emphasized in all communications directed to student-athletes and their parents.
8. School Boards, superintendents, school administrators, parents and school sports leadership must ensure that the first priority of their student-athletes is a serious commitment to getting an education and developing the academic skills and character to succeed.
9. School Boards, superintendents, principals, school administrators and everyone involved at any level of governance in the CIF must maintain ultimate responsibility for the quality and integrity of CIF programs. Such individuals must assure that education and character development responsibilities are not compromised to achieve sports performance goals and that the academic, social, emotional, physical and ethical well-being of student-athletes is always placed above desires and pressured to win.
10. All employees of member schools must be directly involved and committed to the academic success of student-athletes and the character-building goals of the school.
11. Everyone involved in competition including parents, spectators, associated study body leaders, and all auxiliary groups have a duty to honor the traditions of the sport and to treat other participants with respect. Coaches have a special responsibility to model respectful behavior and the duty to demand that their student-athletes refrain from disrespectful conduct including verbal abuse of opponents and officials, profane or belligerent trash-talking, taunting and inappropriate celebrations.
12. School Boards, superintendents, and school administrators of CIF-member schools must ensure that coaches, whether paid or voluntary, are competent to coach. Training or experience may determine minimal competence. These competencies include basic knowledge of:
 - 1) The character building aspects of sports, including techniques and methods of teaching and reinforcing the core values comprising sportsmanship and good character.
 - 2) The physical capabilities and limitations of the age group coached as well as first aid.
 - 3) Coaching principles and the rules and strategies of the sport.
13. Because of the powerful potential of sports as a vehicle for positive personal growth, a broad spectrum of school sports experiences should be made available to all of our diverse communities.
14. To safeguard the health of athletes and the integrity of the sport, school sports programs must actively prohibit the use of alcohol, tobacco, drugs and performance-enhancing substances, as well as demand compliance with all laws and regulations, including those related to gambling and the use of drugs.
15. Schools that offer athletic programs must safeguard the integrity of their programs. Commercial relationships should be continually monitored to ensure against inappropriate exploitation of the school’s name or reputation. There should be no undue influence of commercial interests. In addition, sports programs must be prudent, avoiding undue dependence on particular companies or sponsors.
16. The profession of coaching is a profession of teaching. In addition to teaching the mental and physical dimensions of their sport, coaches, through words and example, must also strive to build the character of their athletes by teaching them to be trustworthy, respectful, responsible, fair, caring and good citizens.

“Pursuing Victory With Honor” and the “Six Pillars of Character” are service marks of the CHARACTER COUNTS! Coalition, a project of the Josephson Institute of Ethics. For more information on promoting character education and good sportsmanship, visit www.charactercounts.com.

SRVUSD ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT:

Players will:

1. Show respect for teammates, coaches, opponents and officials.
2. Use no foul language, trash talk, negative gestures or actions to provoke a negative response or fighting.
3. Be in attendance at school a minimum of 4 periods (or 2 block periods) before being allowed to practice or play on any day.
4. Maintain a minimum of a 2.0 GPA according to school and NCS policy.
5. Sign a contract agreeing to the above expectations.

Coaches will:

1. Be consistent, attempt to instruct in a positive manner and use appropriate language at all times.
2. Not tolerate unsportsmanlike behavior actions by players, assistants or volunteer coaches.
3. Place the safety and welfare of players as their highest priority.
4. Allow no student to practice or play in competition without a completed Athletic Participation Clearance form.

Spectators will:

1. Show cordial courtesy to visiting teams and officials.
2. Emphasize the proper ideas of sportsmanship and conduct

NCS/EBAL EJECTION POLICY:

1. Ejection of a player from a contest for unsportsmanlike or dangerous conduct.
Penalty: The player shall be ineligible for the next contest (non-league, league, invitational tournament, post-season {league, section or state} playoff, etc.).
2. Illegal participation in the next contest by a player ejected in a previous contest.
Penalty: The contest shall be forfeited and the ineligible player shall be ineligible for the next contest.
3. Second ejection of a player for unsportsmanlike or dangerous conduct from a contest during one season.
Penalty: The player shall be ineligible for the remainder of the season.
4. When one or more players leave the bench to begin or participate in an altercation.
Penalty: The player(s) shall be ejected from the contest-in-question and become ineligible for the next contest (non-league, league, invitational tournament, post-season {league, section or state} playoff, etc.)
5. Coaches are responsible for determining the cause of ejection for any of their players and for enforcement of the Ejection Policy. Confusion over the cause for a player's ejection shall not be the basis for allowing a student who has been ejected under an applicable rule to avoid the sanctions required by the Ejection Policy (either prohibition from participation or forfeiture), should a student who is in violation of the Ejection Policy play in a subsequent contest (BOM 10/24/97).

UNSPORTSMANLIKE ACTIONS:

In addition to the official's call, unsportsmanlike conduct will result in appropriate discipline and counseling by the coach and/or other school officials and be dealt with by reprimand and counseling by the coach and/or appropriate other school officials. Actions of this nature may lead to benching or suspension or withdrawal of athletic privileges and school disciplinary intervention if the rules/policies are violated.

INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR:

Certain behaviors are considered inappropriate and unacceptable. **The school and athletic department reserve the right to refuse admission or remove persons, including adults, who exhibit such behaviors including, but not limited to:**

1. Repeated berating, humiliating or taunting of our coaches, players or spectators.
2. Repeated berating, humiliating or taunting of our opponent's coaches, players or spectators.
3. Repeated berating and harassment of game officials.
4. Racist, sexist or profane remarks directed at any coach, player, official or spectator.

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS (at school or school-related events):

1st Offense: School disciplinary action; suspension from participation in games and practices) for a total of 10 school or athletic participation days. Students can watch practice after completion of school suspension. The 10 days of suspension include the school suspension days. If the current sport season ends before the completion of the 10 day team suspension, the remaining suspension days will be carried forward to the next sport the student plays in; arrangements will be made for the student to try-out for the next sport.

2nd Offense: Suspension from team/sports participation for 40 calendar days from the date of suspension, not including summer school. If the student participates in a drug treatment program immediately following the second suspension, suspension from athletics and/or activities may be reduced to 30 calendar days from the date of suspension, not including summer school. (It should be noted that school policies regarding the use of alcohol and other drugs will be in effect for all athletic events)
These disciplinary actions are cumulative over the four years of high school

EBAL SPORTSMANSHIP GUIDELINES

PLEASE FOLLOW THE BELOW GUIDELINES FOR GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP:

- Encourage your team by positively cheering for them
- Sit in the area designated for your school
- Welcome the visiting team and officials with good sportsmanship and respect
- Reserve the front row of the student rooting section for the cheerleaders

THE BELOW ACTIVITIES ARE NOT PERMITTED, AND DO NOT REFLECT GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP:

- Face painting except a small school logo, mascot or initials not to exceed 2 square inches in size
- Yelling, booing or heckling an official's decision
- Costumes, except for school mascots
- Artificial noisemakers like air-horns, cowbells, clappers, megaphones and drums
- Laser pointers
- Throwing things into or out of the crowd
- Bringing basketballs into the facility
- Playing basketball during half-time or between games
- Re-entry into the gym once you leave

Doors will close at the end of the third quarter.

School personnel are authorized to eject any spectator who displays inappropriate behavior at any time

OFFICIALS:

Officials should be treated with respect during and after contests, even if there is disagreement with their calls. **Any physical confrontation of an official by an athlete may be considered an assault. The athlete may lose athletic eligibility for their entire high school career under CIF Bylaw 211.**

DONATIONS/FUNDING:

High school athletics in SRVUSD cannot function without your support. High schools do not receive district (tax dollar) funds for equipment, uniforms, transportation, and most coaching stipends. As such, financial donations are requested to fund these valuable programs. Without your generous donations, sports at San Ramon Valley Unified School District high schools cannot be offered. High school sports cost much less than outside club sports and we appreciate your help in keeping our district teams afloat. Suggested financial donations are used to cover the major operating costs of our athletic budget including officials, equipment, athletic trainers, supervision/security, facilities, first aid supplies, CIF dues, NCS dues & league fees and more. The requested donation will be detailed in a specific sport budget presented to parents at an orientation meeting after teams have been finalized. Your financial donation is tax deductible and goes directly to the sport your child is participating in, and is a direct benefit to your student. Although the athletic programs can only survive through parent donations, an individual's participation on a team is not dependent on financial donations.

We encourage all interested students to try out for athletic teams.

PARENT FUNDING:

Parents are not permitted to pay coaches in addition to their coaching stipends or underwrite teams that are not official EBAL or District teams (such as a new level of a sport). Coaches or parent-support clubs may not require athletes to pay to participate on a team. To do so could result in forfeiture of games or being disallowed from postseason play.

ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUBS:

The athletic department is fortunate to have very supportive athletic booster clubs. These groups play a large part in creating a positive experience for all student athletes. If you would like to be involved, contact the Athletic Director for more information.

TEAM/PARENT MEETING:

Coaches are expected to arrange an opportunity for parents to meet the coach and any assistants prior to the first contest of the season. This meeting should include discussion of team policies and expectations and address parent questions. It is also a good time to meet parents of other players on the team and make arrangements for the season. **Please plan on attending and meeting your coach(es).**

TEAM PARENTS:

Coaches appreciate when one or more parents volunteer to assist with team management such as arranging transportation, organizing equipment, maintaining an email group, arranging team dinners and banquets and being of other assistance to the team and coach. All team management items shall be approved by the program coordinator/head coach.

TRY-OUTS:

High school sports are competitive. Try-outs may be conducted for the team. **Selection to participate on a team does not guarantee playing time during competition.** All decisions for selection on a team or playing time are the responsibility of the head coach in each respective sport. All students, including freshmen, are permitted to try out for any sport provided they are academically and residentially eligible and have a physical exam on file. **If a student is currently playing on a team when try-outs for the next season's sports begin, that student may try-out AFTER their current season is over.**

PLAYING TIME:

Not all players get the same playing time. The nature of high school athletics and competition means putting the best team possible into competition. The coach must decide who the most qualified players are so the team gets its best chance for success. Thus, playing time is determined by the discretion of the coach. Part of a player's maturation process includes putting one's personal desires aside for the betterment of the team.

PRACTICES:

All athletes are expected to attend ALL scheduled practices. Practices are usually 2-3 hours every weekday and may be held on Saturdays and during school holidays. **Student athletes are asked to make appointments and schedule vacations around practices and game commitments.** The CIF/NCS [Practice Guidelines](#) (pg.106) limit all athletic activities to no more than eighteen (18) hours of total practice/game time per week and no more than four (4) hours in any single day.

PRACTICE SCHEDULES ON NON-SCHOOL DAYS:

Coaches have the authority to establish policies that **may** include **holding practice and/or games during non-school days that fall within their season of sport.** Teams must clearly communicate practice/game schedules at the beginning of the season, and athletes are expected to comply. No practices/games may be held on Sundays. Athletes may not be penalized for observing a religious holiday.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:

In order to participate in an athletic contest or practice, an athlete must have attended a minimum of four (4) regular periods or two (2) block periods on the day of the contest (or on Friday for a Saturday contest). A school field trip is considered to be school attendance. This is a District policy, which may be waived by the Principal in exceptional circumstances.

EARLY RELEASES:

Students and parents should be aware that there is a good chance that students will miss all or part of the last class of the day when they have to travel to other schools for competition. This could happen multiple times during a season. Students have the responsibility to contact their teacher in advance to coordinate make-up work.

COACHES:

SRVUSD expectations are that coaches are to be treated with the same respect accorded any other professional. Coaches put in many hours for very little financial compensation. They do it because they are committed educators who enjoy the students and the sport. We ask that you remember that the only way we can expect students to treat a coach with respect is if the parent also treats a coach with respect. It is important that any conversations at home regarding the coaches and/or their decisions are put in a positive tone.

The school administration (Athletic Director, Athletic Assistant Principal and Principal) regularly evaluate paid coaches through observations at practices and games, written input from athletes, adherence to school expectations and other information that is gathered. Evaluation conferences are held with coaches at the end of the season to acknowledge successes and make a plan for improvement when needed. Site administration is responsible for employment of coaches.

ADMISSION TO ATHLETIC EVENTS:

Admission may be charged for home or away varsity contests if gate control and supervision are provided by the school. **Students with ASB cards in their possession** may enter free at home games, but may be charged a reduced admission at away schools.

ISSUING AND COLLECTION OF UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT:

Uniforms and equipment issued should be cared for properly. Please follow care instructions for all garments. Uniforms and equipment should be returned to the coach at the end of the season. **Student athletes will be charged for replacement of any lost or damaged school property.** Transcripts or yearbooks may not be issued until all bills owed to the school have been paid.

LOCKER ROOMS:

Athletes are expected to use the locker rooms appropriately for changing. They are responsible for the security of their belongings by always locking them in the locker. **Do not bring valuables into the locker rooms.** Athletes should behave appropriately with language and demeanor. No pictures or videos may be taken inside a locker room. Violation will result in school/team discipline.

TRANSPORTATION FOR ATHLETICS:

The District **may** provide transportation for athletes to and from athletic events by contract with private transportation providers to the extent that funds are available for this purpose. When funds are not available, the Superintendent, or designee, will neither authorize nor arrange for the transportation of the students by private automobile. **Rather, parents will be expected to assume responsibility and make their own arrangements for transportation to practices and contests. Parent drivers must be cleared in SRVUSD's Be A Mentor program to drive student athletes. Coaches are never to provide transportation for students.**

HAZING:

SRVUSD does not tolerate any activities having the potential to embarrass, humiliate or injure any student as a condition of participation in any school activity. Perpetrators may be penalized by, but not limited to, removal from the team, suspension from school and/or criminal citation. **Hazing should be reported to the athletic director or site athletic administrator immediately.** Hazing includes, but is not limited to, any activity involving an unreasonable risk of physical or emotional harm such as:

- Punishing physical activity, exposure to elements or sleep deprivation.
- Consumption of alcohol, drugs, tobacco or any other food liquid or other substances.
- Actions of a sexual nature or simulations of actions of a sexual nature.
- Subjection to an extreme level of embarrassment, shame or humiliation.
- Violation of any federal, state or local law or any violation of District policies and regulations.
- BP 5131(a) prohibits discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying of students or staff, including sexual harassment, hate-motivated behavior, cyber bullying, hazing or initiation activity, extortion, or any other verbal, written, or physical conduct that causes or threatens to cause violence, bodily harm, or substantial disruption to school activities.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND NETWORKING:

SRVUSD Athletic Teams may have their own social media accounts, but these accounts are not official accounts of SRVUSD. We recommend and advise any Athletics Teams using social media to follow the below guidelines:

- Don't post photos of students who do not have media clearance or express permission from parents/guardians
- Use good judgment and think before you post. When posting, always demonstrate respect for others, even if they do not agree with you. Do not engage in conduct that is rude or disrespectful, use vulgar language or racial slurs, or post materials that are inflammatory, defamatory, offensive, harassing or indecent. Do not post or forward unsubstantiated rumors.
- Do not pick fights or respond to abusive comments. Contact [SRVUSD Communications](#) if you have concerns about a comment or user, or if you want to learn more about best practices in social media.

Please note that the comments expressed on any social media sites, whether official SRVUSD sites or affiliated through schools, do not reflect the official opinions and position of the District or SRVUSD's Board of Education. If you have any questions concerning the operation of your social media sites, please contact [SRVUSD Communications](#).

SRVUSD SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS:



PREVENTIVE MEDICAL CARE:

SRVUSD believes that preventive medical care for athletes is the responsibility of the parent(s). From time to time, services such as athletic physicals, concussion baseline testing, etc. may be offered on school facilities by outside providers for a fee.

MRSA (Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus):

MRSA is a staph infection that is resistant to many common antibiotics and hard to treat. It can be transmitted through poor hygiene, sharing of personal items, improper wound care and other transmission sources. A few cases have been reported in EBAL schools. It is always important to follow good hygiene precautions. For more information, see the CIF Sports Medicine alert on the [CIF website](#).

CONCUSSIONS:

All sports have the possibility of injury. The most potentially serious injury is a concussion or multiple concussions. Parents and athletes should take them seriously and consult a physician for medical advice. Please review the educational materials at the bottom of this document, and posted on [SRVUSD's Athletics webpage](#) about the potential medical and academic effects of concussions. Parents and athletes are required to sign the CIF Concussion Information form as part of the Athletic Participation Form. An athlete suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in an athletic activity shall be immediately removed from the activity for the remainder of the day. The student shall not be permitted to return until they are evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in the management of concussions and receives the health care provider's written clearance to return to the activity. (Education Code 49475). **Parents, coaches and athletes are encouraged to view [Concussion in Sports - What You Need To Know](#)** (a free on-line course). For more information, see the [CIF Sports Medicine alert](#). Once a licensed health care provider has released a student to resume activities, the athlete may return to play after they have completed SRVUSD's return to play protocol at the school site.

H1N1 FLU:

Teams should follow good hygiene in hand washing before and after practice. Any player exhibiting signs of flu should be encouraged to stay home without penalty to avoid transmitting flu to other team members. Follow the advice given by your physician or the school if an outbreak should occur. For more information, see the CIF Sports Medicine alert at the [CIF website](#).

BLOOD-BORNE PATHOGENS:

All players should be aware of blood-borne pathogen protocol when there is bleeding. Whenever a player incurs an injury or wound that produces bleeding or other body fluids, the practice or game shall be stopped in accordance with CIF guidelines and the player shall be escorted away from the playing field for appropriate treatment. The player shall not return to the practice or game until the bleeding has stopped and the wound is properly covered. Gloves should always be worn when dealing with any body fluids.

NONDISCRIMINATION AND EQUIVALENT OPPORTUNITIES:

According to BP 6145.2(a), SRVUSD athletic program shall be free from discrimination and discriminatory practices prohibited by state and federal law. The Superintendent/designee shall ensure equivalent athletic opportunities are provided for males and females.

OUTSIDE COMPETITION AND SUMMER LEAGUES:

According to CIF rule 600, no student-athlete may participate on a non-school team of the same sport during the same season. This includes leagues, tournaments, charity games, all-star games, 3-3 tournaments, college physical education classes, etc. Since participation in a non-school event of the same sport will render an athlete ineligible and force the forfeiture of any contest, student-athletes must check with the Athletic Director if there is any doubt as to whether a competition is permissible according to NCS and CIF by-laws. SRVUSD schools, the EBAL, NCS, and CIF do not sponsor summer league teams. Although participation is allowed, it is not officially or unofficially associated with the above-mentioned groups. The parent assumes full responsibility for medical expenses and any liability that may occur as a result of participation on a summer league team.

PLAYOFFS:

It is exciting when a varsity team makes the EBAL, NCS, or the CIF championship playoffs. Playoffs may extend the athlete's participation in the sport. The EBAL playoffs are typically held the week after the regular season of sport. The NCS playoffs begin immediately after the EBAL playoffs. Check the EBAL and NCS websites for playoff brackets as well as date, time and location of playoff contests. Admission will be charged by EBAL or NCS for these events. Playoff seeding is determined by EBAL /NCS policy and/or seeding committees. Home field/court advantage is usually at the highest seed unless appropriate athletic facilities are unavailable. Time and place of playoff games is established by EBAL /NCS and is usually non-negotiable. Playoff information is available at www.cifncs.org after postseason seeding has taken place.

PARENTAL NOTIFICATIONS:

1. Any **discrimination complaint** arising out of an interscholastic athletic activity must be reported to the site athletic administrators and/or the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources who is the District's Title IX Coordinator.
2. **Athletes' Bill of Rights** pursuant to Education Code 271
 - (a) You have the right to fair and equitable treatment and you shall not be discriminated against based on your sex.
 - (b) You have the right to have an equitable opportunity to participate in all academic extracurricular activities, including athletics.
 - (c) You have the right to inquire of the athletic director of your school as to the athletic opportunities offered by the school.
 - (d) You have the right to apply for athletic scholarships.
 - (e) You have the right to receive equitable treatment and benefits in the provision of all of the following:
 - (1) Equipment and supplies.
 - (2) Scheduling of games and practices.
 - (3) Transportation and daily allowances.
 - (4) Access to tutoring.
 - (5) Coaching.
 - (6) Locker rooms.
 - (7) Practice and competitive facilities.
 - (8) Medical and training facilities and services.
 - (9) Publicity.
 - (f) You have the right to have access to a gender equity coordinator to answer questions regarding gender equity laws.
 - (g) You have the right to contact the State Department of Education and the CIF to access information on gender equity laws.
 - (h) You have the right to file a confidential discrimination complaint with the United States Office of Civil Rights or the State Department of Education if you believe you have been discriminated against or if you believe you have received unequal treatment on the basis of your sex.
 - (i) You have the right to pursue civil remedies if you have been discriminated against.
 - (j) You have the right to be protected against retaliation if you file a discrimination complaint.
3. **Athletic Risk:** The following statements are contained in the Athletic Participation Form signed by parents and students:
 - (a) I understand and acknowledge that some of the injuries/illnesses which may result from participating in these activities include, but are not limited to, the following: Sprains/strains, Concussions, Paralysis, Communicable diseases, Fractured bones, Head and/or back injury, Loss of eyesight, Death
 - (b) I understand and acknowledge that participation in these activities is completely voluntary and is not required by the District.
 - (c) I understand and acknowledge that, in order to participate in these activities, I agree to assume liability and responsibility for any and all potential risks which may be associated with participation in such activities.
 - (d) I understand, acknowledge, and agree that the District, its employees, officers, agents, or volunteers shall not be liable for any injury/illness suffered incidental to and/or associated with preparing for and/or participating in this activity.
 - (e) I acknowledge that I have carefully read this VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF POTENTIAL RISK information, all information provided is truthful and that I understand and agree to its terms.
4. **Insurance protection:** STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS ARE REQUIRED BY STATE LAW TO HAVE MEDICAL INSURANCE. Student Accident and Health Care Insurance plans are especially recommended for students with no other insurance since they provide the most help when injuries occur. Student Health Care covers illness as well as injury, 24 hours a day. All plans are available on a "24-Hour", "School Time", and "Tackle Football Only" basis. If your student has other health coverage, student insurance may also be used to help pay those charges not covered by other insurance. Brochures distributed at the beginning of each school year.
5. **Parental permission** for the student to participate in the program and, if appropriate, be transported by the district to and from competitions is granted in the Athletic Participation Form.
6. **Conduct:** The Governing Board's expectation that students adhere strictly to all safety rules, regulations, and instructions, as well as rules and guidelines related to conduct and sportsmanship.
7. **Performance enhancing drugs:** Athletes and parents sign a statement that the student will not use steroids or dietary supplements banned by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency on the Athletic Participation Form.

CONCUSSION: A Fact Sheet for Parents/Guardians and Coaches

WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

A concussion is a brain injury that:

- Is caused by a blow to the head or body from contact with another player, hitting a hard surface such as the ground, ice or floor, or being hit by a piece of equipment such as a bat, lacrosse stick or field hockey ball.
- Can change the way your brain normally works.
- Can range from mild to severe.
- Presents itself differently for each athlete.
- Can occur during practice or competition in ANY sport.
- **Can happen even if you do not lose consciousness.**

CIF Bylaw 313. Play It Safer

A student-athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or game shall be removed from competition at that time for the remainder of the day. A student-athlete who has been removed from play may not return to play until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussion and receives written clearance to return to play from that health care provider.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF A CONCUSSION?

You can't see a concussion, but you might notice some of the symptoms right away. Other symptoms can show up hours or days after the

injury. Concussion symptoms include:

- Amnesia.
- Confusion.
- Headache.
- Loss of consciousness.
- Balance problems or dizziness.
- Double or fuzzy vision.
- Sensitivity to light or noise.
- Nausea (feeling that you might vomit).
- Don't feel right.
- Feeling sluggish, foggy or groggy.
- Feeling unusually irritable.
- Concentration or memory problems (forgetting game plays, facts, meeting times).
- Slowed reaction time
- Exercise or activities that involve a lot of concentration, such as studying, working on the computer, or playing video games may cause concussion symptoms (such as headache or tiredness) to reappear or get worse.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN IF MY CHILD KEEPS ON PLAYING WITH A CONCUSSION OR RETURNS TOO SOON?

Athletes with the signs and symptoms of concussion should be removed from play immediately. Continuing to play with the signs and symptoms of a concussion leaves the young athlete especially vulnerable to greater injury. There is an increased risk of significant damage from a concussion for a period of time after that concussion occurs, particularly if the athlete suffers another concussion before completely recovering from the first one. This can lead to prolonged recovery, or even to severe brain swelling (second impact syndrome) with devastating and even fatal consequences. It is well known that adolescent or teenage athletes will often under report symptoms of injuries. And concussions are no different. As a result, education of administrators, coaches, parents and students is the key for student-athlete's safety.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO IF YOU THINK YOUR CHILD HAS SUFFERED A CONCUSSION

Any athlete even suspected of suffering a concussion should be removed from the game or practice immediately. No athlete may return to activity after an apparent head injury or concussion, regardless of how mild it seems or how quickly symptoms clear, without written medical clearance. Close observation of the athlete should continue for several hours. The new CIF Bylaw 313. Now requires the consistent and uniform implementation of long and well-established return to play concussion guidelines that help ensure and protect the health of student-athletes.

IT'S BETTER TO MISS ONE GAME THAN THE WHOLE SEASON. WHEN IN DOUBT, GET CHECKED OUT.

CONCUSSION: A Fact Sheet for Student-Athletes

WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

A concussion is a brain injury that:

- Is caused by a blow to the head or body from contact with another player, hitting a hard surface such as the ground, ice or floor, or being hit by a piece of equipment such as a bat, lacrosse stick or field hockey ball.
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- Presents itself differently for each athlete.
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- **Can happen even if you do not lose consciousness.**

HOW CAN I PREVENT A CONCUSSION?

Basic steps you can take to protect yourself from concussion:

- Do not initiate contact with your head or helmet. You can still get a concussion if you are wearing a helmet.
- Avoid striking an opponent in the head: Undercutting, flying elbows, stepping on a head, checking an unprotected opponent and sticking to the head all cause concussions.
- Follow your athletics department's rules for safety and the rules of the sport.
- Practice good sportsmanship at all times.
- Practice and perfect the skills of the sport.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF A CONCUSSION?

You can't see a concussion, but you might notice some of the symptoms right away. Other symptoms can show up hours or days after the injury.

Concussion symptoms include:

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- Concentration or memory problems (forgetting game plays, facts, meeting times).
- Slowed reaction time.
- Exercise or activities that involve a lot of concentration, such as studying, working on the computer, or playing video games may cause concussion symptoms (such as headache or tiredness) to reappear or get worse.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I THINK I HAVE A CONCUSSION?

DON'T HIDE IT! Tell your athletic trainer and coach. Never ignore a blow to the head. Also, tell your athletic trainer and coach if one of your teammates might have a concussion. Sports have injury timeouts and player substitutions so that you can get checked out.

REPORT IT. TELL YOUR COACH – TELL YOUR PARENTS! Do not return to participation in a game, practice or other activity with symptoms. The sooner you get checked out, the sooner you may be able to return to play.

GET CHECKED OUT. Your team physician, athletic trainer, or health care professional can tell you if you have had a concussion and when you are cleared to return to play. A concussion can affect your ability to perform everyday activities, your reaction time, balance, sleep and classroom performance.

TAKE TIME TO RECOVER. If you have had a concussion, your brain needs time to heal. While your brain is still healing, you are much more likely to have a repeat concussion. In rare cases, repeat concussions can cause permanent brain damage, and even death. Severe brain injury can change your whole life.

IT'S BETTER TO MISS ONE GAME THAN THE WHOLE SEASON. WHEN IN DOUBT, GET CHECKED OUT.

For more information and resources, visit [CIF: Concussions](#) & [CDC: Concussions](#)