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***Athletic Handbook***

***2019-20***

**Sportsmanship**

The Salisbury R-IV School District is member of the Lewis and Clark Conference and Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA). As members of these groups, we adhere to policies established for the display of good sportsmanship by athletes, students, fans, parents and patrons. Member schools are to enforce sportsmanship rules for our own school, players and spectators. Violation of rules can result in the following consequences: written reprimand, probation, suspension, ejection or permanent removal from events. Consequences are in force for players, coaches, students, parents and fans.

All School Discipline policies and rules apply to the Salisbury R-IV School District students at school activities whether they are held on school property or away from school.

**Good Sportsmanship Code**

**For Players, Coaches and Fans:**

* Maintain pride in self and school.
* Strive to keep high standards of conduct.
* Cheering is always encouraged for one’s own team.
* No taunts, chants, noises, cheers, songs, profanity, signs or motions directed to the opposing team, coach, school or officials. Treat everyone with respect.
* Positive signs may be displayed for one’s own team.
* No disrespect will be shown to the opposing team during introductions.
* No noisemakers.
* No continuous standing.
* Abide by the decisions of officials.
* Accept victory or defeat graciously.

The Salisbury R-IV School District grounds (inside and outside) are, by the Salisbury R-IV School District Board Policy, a tobacco-free environment. There is to be no smoking or other form of tobacco use inside the building or outside on any school or athletic grounds.

**Introduction**

The Activities Code of Conduct for the Salisbury R-IV activities program is meant to encourage students who represent the school in one or more of its activities to abide by local, state and federal laws and restrictions pertaining to the use of tobacco, alcoholic beverages and controlled substances. It is intended to encourage parents, faculty members, administrators and board members to demonstrate commitment to established policies which state that we will teach students about substance use and abuse. This Code of Conduct also addresses our policies regarding sportsmanship, citizenship, eligibility standards and transportation. It is intended to address student violations in a uniform manner between and among activities. It is very important that the students realize it is a **privilege** to represent our school and they are expected to do their best. The Code of Conduct is intended to be separate and in addition to the discipline policies as outlined in board Policy 2610.

**Rationale**

Students who participate in athletics and co-curricular activities are thought of as school leaders. They represent the school in the eyes of the community. They serve as role models for other students. As such, these students should be held to a high standard of behavior. Such students need to maintain their physical and mental well-being not only while at school and school-sponsored activities, but at other times as well. In an effort achieve these goals; Salisbury R-IV has developed a prevention program which includes an Activities Code of Conduct. To participate in school sponsored athletics and designated school-sponsored activities, an Activities Code of Conduct agreement form must be signed by students, and their parents are requested to indicate support of the Code by signing the appropriate papers along with their student.

**Student Eligibility Standards**

Salisbury R-IV is a member of the Missouri State High School Activities Association and will abide by the rules and decisions of this association. Determining eligibility is the basic responsibility of the secondary principal.

In order to represent Salisbury R-IV in an extracurricular activity a student must meet all eligibility requirements of the MSHSAA as well as the following school requirements:

Participation in extra-curricular activities is a privilege and not a right. The Missouri State High School Activities Association requires students to pass 3.0 units in the previous semester. (Seventh and Eighth graders are required to pass to the next grade without failing three or more classes.)

Students meeting this requirement will be eligible to participate. Be sure to check with the principal, counselor, coach or athletic director if you have any questions on your eligibility. Once these 3.0 credits are obtained, the student’s eligibility is calculated during the semester by the following: If a student is receiving one or two D’s, they may continue to participate in extracurricular activities. These activities include but are not limited to sports, school dances, student council, class officers, club and organizations and their officers, cheer squads, academic teams, non-grade related field trips, and non-grade related activities.

If a student is receiving three or more D’s and/or one or more F’s on any of the following grading periods (mid-quarter progress reports or end of quarter grade checks), the student is automatically placed on scholastic probation. The principal will notify the parents when this occurs. During this probation, the student may continue to participate in extracurricular activities and events. If the student is still receiving three D’s and/or one or more F’s when grades are released after the completion of the next grading period, the student becomes academically ineligible and may not compete in or attend home extracurricular activities, dances, games, contests and events. If the event is being counted as a part of an academic grade then an alternative assignment will be provided by the teacher. Students who violate attendance rules at activities will receive detention. The student would become eligible if the grade(s) are raised to an acceptable level after grades have been released for the next grading period (3 week grade checks, mid-quarter progress reports, or end of quarter grade checks). Students will be assigned to tutorial during advisory time on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday or until teacher has verified the improvement of students grade(s).

The superintendent or principal may rule a student ineligible to participate in extra-curricular activities if, in their judgment or recommendation of the faculty that the student is not representative of the school’s ideals in matters of citizenship and sportsmanship.

All students participating in activities will dress according to the sponsor’s recommendations.

Extra-curricular activities are regulated by the Missouri State High School Activities Association; therefore, all MSHSAA regulations must be complied with and will supersede any less stringent local regulations.

**ATTENDANCE TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR EXTRACURRICULAR EVENTS**

Students must be in attendance for 50% of the school day to be eligible for evening contests. Students who are sick in the morning and wish to participate in an extracurricular event that evening must arrive at school no later than 11:45 AM. Student absences from school for reasons other than sickness will be handled on a case by case basis by the Principal and/or Athletic Director. Students who are absent for sickness for an entire day on the last day of the school week are not eligible to participate in any events or activities on that following day. MSHSAA by-law 2.2.3 states, "If a student misses class(es) without being excused by the principal, the student shall not be considered eligible on that date. Further, the student cannot be certified eligible to participate on any subsequent date until the student attends a full day of classes". Students who attend school and then go home sick will not be eligible for that evening’s activities. Students, who attend school, get sick and go home and then return to school must meet the 50% attendance guideline.

**Regulations for Team Managers**

* A student must be academically eligible, by both MSHSAA and Salisbury R-IV standards in order to be a manager.
* A boy or girl must be a student in grade nine through twelve in order to be manager for high school teams. A boy or girl must be a student in grade seven or eight in order to be a manager for a middle school team.
* Only full-time, high school managers can receive school letters.
* Middle school students may serve as “ball boys” or “water boys” for high school teams. However, this type of position shall only involve work done at the time and site of an athletic contest. Such students will not be excused to miss school time to attend athletic events, nor will they be allowed to ride the team bus to or from athletic events.

**Travel to and from Contests**

Student-athletes must ride the provided transportation to and from the event. A student will not be allowed to drive themselves to an event. Only in a unique circumstance, approved by the Principal or Activities Director, will they be allowed to ride to an event with parents. A student will be allowed to ride home with parents after they have made personal contact with the coach and signed their child out. If a student is to ride home with another parent, the proper paperwork must be completed and approved by the Principal or Activities Director prior to the event.

**Consequences**

Students in activities or athletics who violate the district’s rules and regulations on tobacco, defacing or destroying school property and drug or alcohol use or possession at school or during school activities, in addition to the consequences set out herein, are subject to established consequences in the Salisbury R-IV School District discipline policy.

The following penalties shall be imposed upon participants in extra-curricular activities determined to be guilty, by law enforcement officials, appropriate school personnel, or by participant admission of guilt, of using, possessing, or promoting alcohol, tobacco or controlled substances. Conviction in a court is not required to impose a penalty if an infraction has occurred. If a participating student, after an informal hearing before the principal and activities director, is found to have committed a violation as described in this code, either in or out of school, the participating student shall thereupon be declared ineligible to participate in school activities. The student shall remain out of such activities for the pertinent time limits prescribed below.

**Tobacco**

1st Offense – suspension from participation in 10-20% of the total scheduled events (excluding practices) in which they would otherwise be eligible to participate, according to eligibility requirements determined by the Salisbury R-IV School District and MSHSAA. Students are still required to attend practice. Practice participation is at the discretion of the coach/sponsor.

2nd Offense – suspension from participation for the full season in which they would otherwise be eligible to participate.

3rd Offense – suspension from all extra-curricular activities for 365 days.

The tobacco portion will be enforced the same, whether the student is determined to be guilty before or during the season.

**Alcohol/Controlled Substance**

1st Offense – suspension from participation in 10-50% of the total scheduled events (excluding practices) in which they would otherwise be eligible to participate, according to eligibility requirements determined by the Salisbury R-IV School District and MSHSAA. They are still required to attend practice. Participation in practice is up to the coach/sponsor.

2nd Offense – suspension from all extra-curricular activities for 365 days.

The alcohol/controlled substance policy outlines what will happen to a student who violates the policy outside of their activity/season. If a student is determined guilty during their activity/ season, they will be disciplined immediately. The building principal and activities director will determine if the student’s next activity/season will be affected by the suspension, depending on how much of the current season is left.

**Defacing or Destroying Property**

Any athlete who defaces or destroys property of the Salisbury R-IV School District, property of staff members of the Salisbury R-IV School District or property of other school districts or their staff members will be subject to the following actions:

1st Offense – Parents /guardians will be notified. Restitution, discipline from the coach including and up to removal from the team. If necessary, law enforcement will be contacted.

2nd Offense – Parents/guardians will be notified. Restitution, termination from the team as well as an 8 week suspension from all extracurricular activity. Law enforcement will be contacted.

**No participating student shall be allowed to again participate in school activities until he or she has completed any and all of the above-described directions and requirements in the decision reached by a majority of the hearing officials.**

**Probationary Period**

Any student found to be ineligible under this code will also be placed on probation for a two year period, which includes the period of ineligibility. If a student has no additional offenses during the probationary period, any offense under this code after the probationary period shall be considered a first offense.

**Athletic Equipment**

All athletes are responsible for the preservation of the school’s athletic equipment. Equipment issued to athletes must be returned to the coach at the end of the season. Athletes will be held financially responsible for any lost or misplaced equipment. Deliberate mutilation of school property or equipment will be charged to the athlete. Equipment includes any uniforms or clothing, which is issued by the coach for the purpose of participation in a particular sport. Athletes not returning school issued equipment or not paying for lost or damaged equipment will not be allowed to participate in any further interscholastic competition at Salisbury R-IV. Senior athletes will not receive graduation diplomas until equipment obligations are met.

**Unsportsmanlike Acts**

Acts which are malicious in nature during a contest resulting in ejection shall cause the athlete to be ineligible to represent the school for at least the next contest. An athlete who commits such an act, but is not ejected may also be subject to at least one game restriction from representing the school. Each case of this type is to be reviewed by the head coach, activities director and principal before a final decision is reached.

**Students Covered**

This code shall apply to grades 7 through 12 of Salisbury R-IV School District.

**Other Applicable Rules**

This code of conduct is supplemented by the student complaints and grievances procedures as adopted and amended by the Board of Education of the Salisbury R-IV School District.

**Procedures and Appeals**

The coach/sponsor, in consultation with the activities director and school administrator, may suspend a student from activities after having given him/her the right to be heard. The suspension decision may be appealed to the principal. The principal’s decision will be final. The student and or his/her parent/guardian may appeal actions taken pursuant to this policy.

The school principal or activities director will send a written decision to the parent/guardian within two days of the decision.

**Letter Guidelines**

The following guidelines will be used by each sport to determine the varsity letter winners for that sport:

**Football**

* **Player must have appeared in at least 20 varsity quarters**
* If a player is on a varsity special team, and that is the only time he enters the game, it will only count as 1 quarter for the entire game even if that individual enters the game all 4 quarters on that special team.
* Anytime a player enters the game on offense or defense throughout a quarter, that player will be counted for 1 quarter of play. For example, if Jon Doe enters the game at receiver for one play in the second and third quarter, but not the first or fourth, the player has earned two quarters. If that individual also participates in a special team, then one more quarter is added to the player’s total. So, in this example, Jon Doe has received three varsity quarters in this game.
* Only four quarters can be obtained in one game.
* Seniors who follow team guidelines and have good attendance and attitude records can be lettered by coach’s discretion even if they do not meet the minimal quarters.
* All final decisions on lettering an athlete are up to the head coach’s discretion.

**Baseball**

If a player should enter the game at any position or at any time throughout a varsity game, then that player will be counted as playing in one inning. A player could play the field, pinch hit, pinch run, or pitch to count as one inning.

**GUIDELINES**

* Must have participated in one third of the total amount of innings throughout the year
* Must have played in at least one third of the total games throughout the year
* Must play a vital role to the varsity team throughout the year
* Any senior who has acceptable attendance, and shows good attitude on and off the field throughout the year, causing no problems and doing their best to be a team player
* All decisions are left final to the coach’s discretion

**Boys Basketball**

Everyone who receives a varsity uniform will receive a letter.

**Girls Basketball**

To receive a Varsity Letter one must have played in a total of 10 varsity quarters. The coach also reserves the right to grant a letter to any player that he feels is deserving of the honor, as well as refuse to grant a letter to any player who during the season who did not live up to the standards set forth by the M.S.H.S.A.A. and the Salisbury Athletic Department.

**Girls Softball**

Seniors that attend 90% of the practices are in good standing as-far-as school citizenship policies and have been an active participant in the Lady Panther program.

Underclassmen:

Attend 90% of the practices, comply with all team rules, and be in good standing as-far-as school citizenship policies plus one of the following:

Start in 10 games

Participate in 1/3 of the varsity innings (serving as a courtesy runner or receive pitches between innings allowing the catcher to get ready totaling along with regular game appearances 1/3 of total innings)

Athletes retained on the roster for post-district tournament action when the team advances to the playoffs.

Note: All above lettering criteria are at the discretion of the coach.

**Boys and Girls Golf**

Play in a varsity match. To qualify you must be in the top five golfers at some point during the season.

There may be special circumstances.

**Boys and Girls Track**

The athlete must complete the track season, including district meet and do one of the following:

Score an average of 1 point per meet

Compete in 80% of the total track meets run for the season

Place at a medal meet

**This sheet must be signed by the parties indicated and returned to the Head Coach prior to any student being allowed to participate.**

Prior to participating in any practice or tryout sessions for any interscholastic sport, each athlete must:

1. Successfully pass a physical examination to participate in athletics by a licensed physician and the copy of such examination must be on file in the office of the activities director.
2. Return this Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct with the student and parent(s) signatures.

As a school’s student/athlete voluntarily participating in interscholastic activities/athletics, I acknowledge that:

1. I have read this code of conduct and understand what the Salisbury R-IV School district expects from me in regard to the expectations set forth in this handbook as to sportsmanship, citizenship, scholastics and staying free from drug, alcohol and tobacco use while enrolled in the school. I understand the consequences for violating school policy, and I will not do so while a Salisbury R-IV School District participant.
2. I will be responsible for all equipment issued to me throughout the season, will return such equipment at the conclusion of the season and will pay the current replacement cost for any of the equipment not accounted for by me at the end of the season.
3. I have been properly advised, cautioned and warned by administrative and coaching personnel of the Salisbury R-IV School District that I am exposing myself to the risk of injury, including, but not limited to, the risk of sprains, fractures, and ligament and /or cartilage damage which could result in a temporary or permanent, partial or complete impairment in the use of my limbs, brain damage, paralysis, or even death. Having been so cautioned and warned, it is still my desire to participate in sports and to do so with full knowledge and understanding of the risk of injury and with full consent of my parent/guardian. **I hereby authorize the representative of Salisbury R-IV School District consent for medical treatment for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ my child, if we, the parents or legal guardians are not available at the time of an injury or illness.**
4. I, along with my parents/guardians, certify that I have read and understand all of the Salisbury R-IV School District activity/athletic policies in this handbook. In order to be eligible for participation, I understand I must comply with all requirements listed.
5. I agree that I will refrain from participating in any student hazing activities as a participant or as an observer.

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Student’s Signature Date Parent/Guardian Signature Date