

TULPEHOCKEN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



PARENT/STUDENT ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

“A guide to effective communication”

The Tulpehocken Area School District believes athletics are a valued component of the overall educational process, and are integral to the mission and goals of the District. As Athletic Director, I would like our athletes to have the strong character necessary to meet life's challenges, on and off the field. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. However, good character does not just happen. It is the responsibility of each individual involved (student-athletes, parents, coaches, administrators, and support staff) in interscholastic athletics to **T**each, **E**nforce, **A**dvocate, and **M**odel the concept "character counts". Everyone must be dedicated to strengthening the character of young people through the promotion of trust-worthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. We should all act as good role models and work together as a TEAM. Together we can provide a positive life-long experience for our student athletes.

*The challenge of every organization
is to build a feeling of dependence on one another,
because the question is not how well each person works,
but how well they work together.*

— VINCE LOMBARDI —

2016-2017 Head Coaches

Fall Sports

HS Field Hockey— Amber Boyer, aboyer.coach@outlook.com

MS Field Hockey—vacant

HS Boys Soccer – Tim Frantz, tfrantz12@comcast.net

MS Boys Soccer—Mel Fansler, soccerdad23boys@hotmail.com

HS B/G Cross Country – Rebecca Schlegel, rwebb@tulpehocken.org & Desiree Frantz, dbowe515@gmail.com

MS B/G Cross Country—Joel Jackson, styouthminister@verizon.net

HS Cheerleading— Stephanie Kiecko, broadbelt.stephanie@gmail.com

HS Girls Tennis—Emily Schuppert, eschuppert@tulpehocken.org

HS Girls Soccer—Paul Zerbe, pzerbe@tulpehocken.org

MS Girls Soccer—Korissa Seidel, kseidel@tulpehocken.org

HS B/G Golf—Dave Fake, dfake@tulpehocken.org

Winter Sports

HS Boys Basketball—Joe Wright, hessguy74@hotmail.com

MS Boys Basketball—Derek Herr, derekherr@comcast.net

MS Cheerleading—vacant

HS Girls Basketball—Kerry Lehman, klehman@tulpehocken.org

MS Girls Basketball –vacant

HS Wrestling—Henry Wooleyhand, pabigbuckdown@gmail.com

JH Wrestling—Matt Martin, martinma@readingsd.org

Spring Sports

HS B/G Track & Field—Jen Kerchner, tulpytrack@gmail.com

MS B/G Track & Field - Joel Jackson, styouthminister@verizon.net

HS Baseball—Dave Voigt, dvoigt@tulpehocken.org

MS Baseball – vacant

HS Softball—John Gilmer, johngilmer@comcast.net

MS Softball—Susan Schwartz, sschwartz@tulpehocken.org

HS B Tennis – Dave Fake, dfake@tulpehocken.org

COMMUNICATION PLAN

Parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefits to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

Examples Of Communication You Should Expect From Your Child's Coach

1. Expectations the coach has for your child as a member of the squad.
2. Locations and times of all practices, bus departures, contests, and other team functions.
3. Policies that, if violated, may result in the termination of your child's participation.
4. Team specific requirements, including equipment.



Examples Of Communication Coaches Should Expect From Parents

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach, not the community.
2. Advance notification of schedule conflicts.
3. Identify the reasons your child will be absent from practices and/or contests.

NOTE: If your child is injured or sick enough to visit a doctor, your child will not be permitted to participate in contests without clearance from a doctor. Injury does not excuse a participant from attending practices or contests, unless otherwise noted by the coach.

As your child becomes involved in the athletic program of the Tulpehocken Area School District, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Examples Of Appropriate Concerns To Discuss With Your Child's Coach

1. The treatment of your child.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.



It is very difficult to accept when your child does not play as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved—the TEAM. Certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other topics, such as the following, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Examples of Issues Not Appropriate To Discuss With Your Child's Coach

1. Playing time.
2. Team strategy and tactics.
3. Other student-athletes.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue or concern.

Procedure For Discussing Concerns:

“Have I gone through the entire chain of command to work out an issue?”

1. Encourage your child to speak directly to the coach. This can often clear up many issues, and is always the best place to start.

2. If the player / coach meeting does not resolve the concern, phone your child’s coach to set up an appointment with your child, the coach and yourself. It is important to clarify for the coach the issue for which you are seeking resolution.

3. If the player / coach / parent meeting does not resolve the concern, phone the athletic department to set up a meeting with you, your child’s coach, and the athletic director.

4. If problems do not get resolved with the AD, contact building principal.

5. If problems do not get resolved with the building principal(s), the last in the chain of command is the Superintendent

NOTE: We kindly ask that coaches not be confronted with problems before or after contests & practices. These can be emotional times for both the parent & coach. Meetings of this nature rarely promote resolution.



Important Contact Information

Tulpehocken Area School District (610) 488-6286

Mary Snyder Athletic Secretary (PM) x1160, msnyder02@tulpehocken.org

Amy Miller Athletic Secretary (AM) x1160, amiller@tulpehocken.org

Brent Johnson Athletic Director x1105, bjohnson@tulpehocken.org

Liz Clark Athletic Trainer, lclark@tulpehocken.org

Andrew Netznik Principal x1107, anetznik@tulpehocken.org

Michael Leister JH House Principal x1106, mleister@tulpehocken.org

Denis Quirk Assistant Principal x1115, dquirk@tulpehocken.org

Dr. Robert Schultz Superintendent x2117, rschultz@tulpehocken.org

Student Athlete Code of Responsibility

The Tulpehocken Area School District Discipline Code and the Student Athlete Code of Responsibility governs all students participating in Tulpehocken Area School District Interscholastic athletic programs. Any violation of the student discipline code may result in the forfeiture of the privilege of participation on a Tulpehocken Area School District athletic team.

As representatives of the Tulpehocken Area School District, and its programs participants are expected to exhibit exemplary behavior in and out of school. Therefore, it is understood that all responsibilities listed in but not limited to the Code of Responsibility will apply at all times and that suspension and/or dismissal from athletics may result from failure to comply with these responsibilities.

1. While head coaches may assess penalties for violation of team or activity rules and regulations, the building principal or his/her designee may declare a student ineligible from participation in athletics because of conduct or behavior unbecoming of a student athlete or any violation of the student handbook.
2. All in-season student athletes must be in school no later than 10:00 AM. Student's athletes should expect to be denied the privilege to compete or practice on days they arrive after 10:00 AM. Any student who has an unexcused absence from class(s) shall be ineligible to participate in any athletic activity/activities that school day and any following non-school days. For an absence to be excused, a written note signed by a physician/dentist/etc. must be presented to and approved by the principal or designee. This approval must occur prior to a student's participation in an athletic activity. If an absence is due to illness, the student may not participate on the day of absence, or until the date specified on the written note. If an absence is due to injury, the student may not participate until the date specified by the physician. The athlete may, however, attend the game. Tardiness or absence for illegal/unlawful reasons will not be tolerated the day after an athletic event; athletes will not be permitted to participate in the next athletic activity. The building principal must approve any exception to this rule.
3. Each student is responsible for school issued equipment and uniforms. It is the student athlete's responsibility to properly secure equipment in the appropriate area. Each student athlete is responsible for reporting lost, damaged, or unsafe equipment to the head coach. Any student athlete who has not returned all school issued equipment and uniforms or has any other obligations will not be eligible for participation in another

sport until equipment is returned or the debt paid. Additional penalties may be enacted for unpaid debts.

4. Student athletes must meet all Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) requirements and abide by all governing rules of the PIAA and the Tulpehocken Area School District, including but not limited to age regulations, amateur status, physical examination, and academic requirements. Students who do not meet or who violate the requirements of the PIAA and/or the Tulpehocken Area School District shall be deemed ineligible for participation and may receive additional disciplinary action.
5. Student-athletes must properly wear the uniform before, during, and after the contest when in view of the general public. The student-athlete will be asked to properly adjust the uniform to meet specifications. If the student-athlete fails to adjust and properly wear the designated uniform, the coach and/or Athletic Department reserve the right to remove the student-athlete from the competition. Any dress codes designated by the coach and/or the Athletic Department for away contests must also be followed or the same disciplinary action will be taken. Uniforms should not be worn outside of the competition date and time frame. Student athletes practice attire must also be in-line with the regular school day dress code guidelines. Student athletes must display proper attire, shirts, shorts, etc must be worn. Female athletes must wear a shirt over a sports bra and male students may not participate without a shirt on when participating on an athletic team.
6. The student athlete may not be failing two (2) or more classes in any one week. Weekly academic eligibility reports are submitted to the athletic office for review. Student athletes who are failing two (2) or more subjects in any one week will be deemed ineligible for the following week which includes Sunday through and including the following Saturday. Student athletes who are failing two (2) or more subjects at the end of a grading period will be deemed ineligible for the following 15 school days, starting with the first day of the next grading period or as soon as notification takes place. Ineligible athletes will be allowed to practice, but not participate in any contests or scrimmages during the time of ineligibility. Additionally, ineligible athletes will not be granted early dismissals to travel to away games. Ineligible athletes are required to attend 2 mandatory tutoring sessions during the week of ineligibility (Monday and Wednesday from 3pm-4pm); failure to attend both required tutoring sessions will result

in ineligibility for the following week. Additionally, athletes that accumulate 3 weeks of ineligibility for any reason, excluding legitimate absences (including weeks served for missing the required tutoring sessions) will be dismissed from the team.

7. Student athletes must obey the following rules governing Tulpehocken Area School District student athletes:

- Student athletes are required to use the school district approved transportation to all athletic events sponsored by the Tulpehocken Area School District. Special exceptions may be allowed by permission of the Athletic Director. Student athletes who wish to travel to or from a contest with a parent/guardian must submit a signed permission slip by the parent / guardian to the coach prior to the event. Student athletes will only be granted permission to travel with their parent or guardian.
- Student athletes must receive permission from the coach for any use of a cell phone during an athletic trip or event.
- Student athletes must bring all equipment and uniforms inside the building at the beginning of school. Equipment should be placed in the student assigned locker. Students are not allowed to go to their cars when there is an early dismissal nor will they be allowed to drive home if they have forgotten equipment. Student athletes are not allowed to park in the back parking lot behind the high school gymnasium.
- Student athletes are not eligible for participation when serving In-School Suspension or Out-of-School Suspension. If a suspension is served on a Friday, the student is also ineligible for any activities taking place on that Saturday, unless the principal or his/her designee gives specific permission. Alternative Education Students are not eligible for athletic participation.
- Student athletes who are found to be participating in any type of hazing or harassment activities will be disciplined by the principal. Suspension and/or dismissal from the team may occur and in addition possible police notification may take place.

- Student athletes who are found to be engaged in steroid use will be disciplined by the principal. Suspension and/or dismissal from the team may occur and in addition possible police notification may take place.
- Student athletes who are found to be consuming, possessing, distributing, or under the influence of any controlled substance including alcohol on school grounds will be disciplined by the principal. The student athlete may be required to meet with a certified Drug & Alcohol counselor before reinstatement to an athletic team. Suspension and/or dismissal from the team may occur and in addition possible police notification may take place.
- Students who violate the discipline code as stated in Tulpehocken Area School Board Policy from legal residency to school and back to that same legal place of residency shall be held accountable for their actions during that entire period of time. The current discipline code that all students follow in their respective buildings shall be in effect.

8. Student athletes that are excluded from participation due to an injury / illness may be required to have a physician's approval documented in writing that return to play is allowed. The physician in cooperation with the certified athletic trainer (ATC) shall have final say over return to play.

The student athlete may not participate in an athletic practice or contest until this signed form is returned to the Athletic Director.

We the undersigned parent/guardian and student athlete have read the above rules and guidelines governing athletic participation in the Tulpehocken Area School District. We understand that any violation of school district rules not limited to those listed above may result in disciplinary action. This may also include suspension, and dismissal from a team.