

**ATHLETE'S CONTRACT**  
**MOUNT SINAI SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege. Students wishing to take advantage of the opportunities presented to them by the Mount Sinai School District must show a commitment to the athletic program by regular attendance at practices and contests, as well as conformity to the rules established by the District and coach. The privilege of competing in interscholastic athletics in the Mt. Sinai UFSD requires that each athlete adhere to a number of conditions that enhance their commitment to his/her school and community, family, coaches, and himself/herself. **Failure to comply with the Student Code of Conduct (Handbook) and/or this Contract will result in disciplinary action and/or dismissal from the team.**

**Eligibility**

- An athletic candidate must be a bona fide student and adhere to the N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. rules and regulations.
- All athletic candidates must have completed a sports physical prior to participation. For those students utilizing their own physician, school forms (goldenrod) must be used. All physicals must be taken on or after June 1st to be valid for the ensuing school year, beginning in August/September.
- A student shall be eligible for interscholastic competition in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 until his/her nineteenth birthday. If the age of nineteen years is reached on or after July 1, the student may continue to participate during that school year in all sports.
- A student in grade 7 or 8 who is selected to participate at the Varsity or Junior Varsity level must pass the Athletic Placement process before being able to compete.

**Substance Abuse**

Smoking a cigarette/e-cigarette, cigar or pipe, or using chewing or smokeless tobacco as well as being in possession of or drinking alcohol, or becoming involved with narcotics or controlled substances of any kind, at any time or any place as well as being in possession of will result in disciplinary action that will include one of the following: the suspension from the team for a period of two weeks 14 days; the suspension from the team for the remainder of the season; or the suspension from all athletic teams for the remainder of the school year. (Suspensions will carry over to the next sports season in which the student participates). In addition, the athlete may be subject to the disciplinary provisions of Education Law 3214.

**Hazing – Initiation Ceremony (A Crime in New York State)**

“A person is guilty of hazing... when, in the course of another student’s entry into or affiliation with any team or club, s/he intentionally or recklessly engages in conduct which creates a risk of physical injury, emotional harm or a feeling of intimidation toward another student or students.” This includes, but is not limited to physical harm, threatened harm, harassment, ridicule, criticism and causing the victim to damage public or private property. Any type of “initiation or hazing” is prohibited. Athletes who violate the “hazing” rules will be subject to severe discipline and may be subjected to criminal action.

**Academics Grades 7 thru 12:**

It is recognized that the primary function of the school is to provide each student with a basic education. Therefore, the principal reserves the right to remove a student from a team if that student is not performing academically as expected.

The school year will be divided into eight, five-week grade-reporting periods (4 progress reports and 4 report cards). The four progress reports and report card grades will be used to identify students having academic difficulty. The purpose of this academic eligibility policy is to ensure that any student’s involvement in any athletic activity does not detract from the main objective of academic achievement. It is also essential that any participant in athletic activities maintain a minimum academic level of performance.

Students receiving a progress report comment of “student is presently failing” or a report card grade below 65 in two or more subjects for the first time will be placed on probation for five weeks. Students on a probationary status will be allowed to participate in practices, games, meetings, rehearsals, etc., during this five-week period but is advised to attend extra-help sessions on a regular basis.

Students who fail two or more subjects during the next five-week grade report period will be declared academically ineligible and will not be allowed to participate in any athletic activity during that particular five-week period.

Any student who fails two or more subjects during the final five-week grade reporting period in June will fulfill his/her probationary or ineligible period during the first five weeks of the school year in September. This status can be overturned by successful completion and passing of those failed subjects in summer school.

**Transportation**

All players will ride to and from games on the team bus, under the supervision of a coaching staff member. Proper conduct is expected at all times while riding on school transportation. There may be times when it becomes necessary for a parent to pick up only their son or daughter after a game. This must be cleared with the coach in writing in advance (prior to the day of the contest).

**Attendance**

- If any athlete is absent or suspended from school, s/he may not participate in any practice, scrimmage, or game on that day.
- If any athlete signs in after PERIOD TWO (2) in the High School, they may not participate in any practice, scrimmage, or game on that day.
- Each athlete is expected to accept responsibility for his/her appearance and behavior at all times.

No student may quit one sport and then participate in another once the teams have been selected.

**In addition, any student leaving school for reasons other than medical, legal, or educational/school related will not be allowed to participate in any after-school activities regardless of the time that he/she returns to school. Students leaving for medical, legal, or educational/school related reasons must bring documentation from their health care professional, attorney, or educational institution and submit it to the principal, upon return, in order to be permitted to participate in any after-school activity.**

**Students who are unable to return by the end of the school day but do so prior to the start of the after school activity may participate provided they show their “note” to the coach, advisor, etc. and then give it to the principal the subsequent day.**

**For the purposes of this section, students will be allowed the scheduling of one driver’s test to be considered as an “educational” reason. Subsequent driver’s tests will not apply.**

**Student Responsibilities**

Students earn the privilege of participating in athletics and representing the Mt. Sinai School District based on good citizenship, sound judgment, accepting responsibility and maintaining appropriate behavior in and out-of-school. The Board of Education, faculty, staff and administration of the Mt. Sinai School District strongly believe that all students, including student-athletes, should be accountable for their actions. Those students who exhibit a failure to abide by the District’s Code of Conduct or exhibit a failure to observe moral and/or ethical

conduct in or out –of-school will be subject to strictures up to and including dismissal from participation on athletic teams. Athletes are responsible to review the Student Handbook: Code of Conduct and Student Citizenship Sections (high school students) and be aware of its content. Any conduct or behavior deemed by the District to cause embarrassment to or to in any manner reflect negatively upon the District’s interscholastic athletic program may be cause for disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from participation as a member of a Mt. Sinai team. Specifically, student – athletes will be expected to comport themselves in the athletic arena, in the classroom and outside the school setting (including within “social networks”) in a manner that does not discredit their affiliation with the District’s athletic program. As a student- athlete it is to be expected that all activities undertaken will be considered to be reflective of the District’s athletic program and on that basis such activities are to exhibit good citizenship, sound judgment, responsibility and behavior appropriate to the circumstance.

**Equipment**

The care of team equipment is each athlete's responsibility. Each piece of equipment issued to an athlete must be returned. Any athlete who “owes” the return of a piece of equipment or payment for a piece of equipment may not participate on any athletic team until the equipment is returned or restitution is made.

**Injuries**

All injuries should be reported to the coach as soon as possible so that treatment may begin immediately and necessary insurance regulations complied with.

**Conduct of an Athlete**

Student/Athlete conduct is a reflection on the educational institution. The conduct of an athlete is closely observed in many areas of life. Behavior which interferes with the normal function of school or disrupts or interferes with academic process or any other conduct which endangers the health, safety, morals, welfare, of self or others, constitutes a violation of right of others. It is important that behavior be above reproach in all the following areas and a students engaged in any conduct listed below will be subject to discipline.

***On the Field*** –In the area of athletic competition, an athlete must not use profanity or illegal tactics, understand that losing is part of the game, and is gracious in defeat and modest in victory. The student/athlete is always courteous, makes no excuses, and congratulates the opponent on a well-played game.

***In the Classroom*** – In the academic area, an athlete strives to become a good student. If you are not productive and responsible in class, you will likely be the same on the practice field or floor and never reach your full potential. As an athlete, you must plan your schedule so that you give sufficient time and energy to your studies to ensure acceptable grades. In addition to maintaining good scholarship, an athlete should give full attention to classroom activities and show respect for other students and faculty members at all times. An athlete should have a good attendance record, never cutting class or school.

***Outside School*** -Students may not engage in off-campus misconduct that endangers the health and safety of students or staff within the school or interferes with or can reasonably be expected to substantially disrupt the educational process in the school or at a school function. Examples of such misconduct include but are not limited to: cyberbullying, threatening, hazing or harassing students or school personnel over the phone or the internet. Using message boards, internet, social media, or electronic devices to convey threats, derogatory comments or post ponographic or inappropriate pictures or videos of students or school personnel. As a student-athlete your actions outside of school will be viewed as those of a representative of the District’s athletic program and, accordingly, it will be expected that your actions will be “modeled” to assure that there is no maligning or discrediting of the program, the team on which you participate and/or your teammates. You will be observed by others not only in your individual capacity but also as a Mt. Sinai athlete and on that basis you must have a heightened awareness of your responsibility to act at all times in a manner that does not reflect negatively upon the program , your team and your teammates. It will be expected that this responsibility will be carried with the import required. It cannot be expected that you will be able to isolate yourself from your status as a student: athlete whether you are “texting”; at a Sat. night get-together; downloading a “Facebook” picture; writing a “Facebook” submission or engaging socially in the “real world” or the “virtual worlds” of the numerous social networks available. You should consider that all your actions are being, for all intents and purposes, recorded for review by your coaches, teammates, parents and others who are relying upon you to act responsibly as a member of the Mt. Sinai athletic community.

**Concussions**

A student who has sustained or is believed to have sustained a mild traumatic brain injury (concussion) must be immediately removed from athletic activities. If there is any doubt, it shall be presumed that the student is so injured until proven otherwise. A student is prohibited from resuming athletic activities until he or she has been symptom-free for not less than 24 hours, and has been evaluated by, and received a written and signed authorization from a licensed physician. In addition, in order to resume participation in interscholastic sports activities, the student must receive clearance from the District’s Medical Director to participate in such activities.

**Parental/Guardian Conduct**

It is expected that the deportment of parents and guardians of student-athletes at athletic contests will reflect a respect for all the participants involved including the athletes, coaches, officials and fellow-fans. Any conduct deemed abusive may lead to ejection from a contest; or dependent upon prior misconduct or egregious conduct a permanent suspension from a season's contests.

**Assumption of Risk**

Injury, including paralysis or death, is a risk that must be assumed when engaging in sports; accordingly, it is acknowledged that the athlete assumes the risk of such injury or death and in consideration of the District permitting participation in interscholastic athletics, the student-athlete and his/her parents/guardian agree not to hold the District liable for any such injury, including death.

**I have read, fully understand and agree to fully abide by the terms of the Athlete’s Contract:**

DATE	STUDENT NAME (PRINT)	STUDENT’S SIGNATURE
DATE	PARENTS’ NAME (Guardian) PRINT	PARENTS’ SIGNATURE
DATE	PARENTS’ NAME (Guardian) PRINT	PARENTS’ SIGNATURE