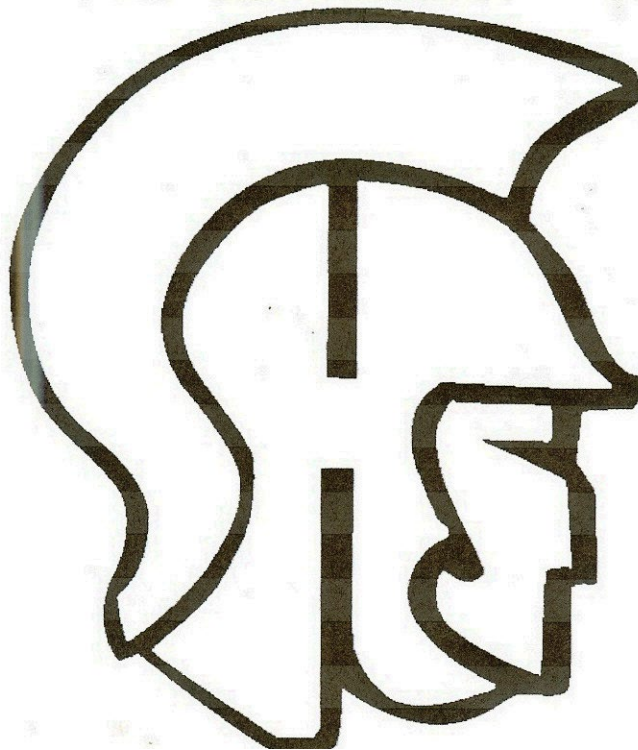


DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK

2023 - 2024

ATHLETIC POLICY, REGULATIONS AND CODE OF CONDUCT



“SPARTAN PRIDE”

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS AND ATHLETICS

Dear Athletes and Parents:

Welcome to the Spackenkill Union Free School District Interscholastic Athletic Program. This handbook is presented to you and your parents because you have expressed a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics. We appreciate your interest in this phase of our educational offerings. We believe that participation in athletics provides the opportunity for developing lifetime skills that will help the students in becoming well-rounded individuals capable of making decisions and handling problems that will enable them to lead a happy and prosperous life.

The main goal of the Spackenkill Interscholastic Program is to provide experiences that are fun and promote individual growth within a safe and healthy environment. We hope that all students will participate in some phase of our athletic program. These will be memorable experiences that will last a lifetime. As parents or guardians of a school-age athlete, you have a vested interest in the overall quality of your child's athletic experiences. You are also an integral part of these experiences. As such, the following are some hints for enhancing your athlete's sports experience:

- ❖ Encourage and model good sportsmanship.
- ❖ Provide an environment that encourages a healthy lifestyle.
- ❖ Know that judgments and expectations can have negative effects.
- ❖ Help your son/daughter to understand the appropriate balance between individual needs and team responsibilities.
- ❖ Teach good time management skills.
- ❖ Support and respect the athletic programs and coaches.
- ❖ Learn about the nutritional needs of athletes.
- ❖ Support your athlete's achievements and respect his/her challenges.
- ❖ Use only constructive remarks when talking to your athlete about a performance.
- ❖ Refrain from criticizing the coach in front of your child. Talk to the coach directly if you have concerns.
- ❖ Remember that athletic scholarships are very difficult to attain. Plan appropriately.

When your daughter/son chooses to participate in one of our sports programs, we believe that they have committed themselves to certain responsibilities and obligations. This handbook will acquaint you with some specific policies/rules that are necessary for a well-organized program of interscholastic athletics. The program is governed by the regulations established by the New York State Commissioner of Education's basic code for interscholastic athletics. Todd Middle and Spackenkill High School are members of The New York State Public High School Athletic Association. Additionally, we compete under the auspices of Section IX and the Mid Hudson Athletic League (MHAL).

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this booklet, please contact me at 845-463-7824.

We hope that you will take the opportunity to "be the best that you can be."

Sincerely Yours,

Marco Lanzoni

Marco Lanzoni
Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Directory	1
Philosophy and Objectives	2
Responsibilities of Spackenkill Athletes	3
Sportsmanship	4
Code of Ethics	5
Academic Eligibility	6
Spackenkill Athletic Regulations	8
Athlete's Pledge	16

SPACKENKILL UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

SPORTS LINE: 845-463-7824

DIRECTORY:

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS: Dr. Paul Fanuele 845-463-7800

HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: Mr. Steve Malkischer 845-463-7810

HIGH SCHOOL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL: Mr. Kenneth Lewis 845-463-7810

MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: Mr. Daniel Doherty 845-463-7830

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS: Mr. Marco Lanzoni 845-463-7824

SPORTS AND SEASONS:

FALL

Boys' Golf – Varsity
Boys' and Girls' Cross Country – Varsity and Modified
Boys' Soccer – Varsity, J.V. and Modified
Cheerleading – Varsity
Field Hockey – Varsity and Modified A
Football – Varsity and Modified A
Girls' Soccer – Varsity, J.V. and Modified
Girls' Swimming – Varsity (merged w/Beacon)
Girls' Tennis – Varsity
Girls' Volleyball – Varsity, J.V. and Modified

WINTER

Boys' Basketball – Varsity, J.V. and Modified
Boys' Swimming – Varsity (merged with Beacon)
Cheerleading - Varsity
Boys' Indoor Track – Varsity
Girls' Basketball – Varsity, J.V. and Modified
Girls' Indoor Track – Varsity

SPRING

Baseball – Varsity, J.V. and Modified
Boys' and Girls' Crew – Varsity and Novice Club Team
Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse – Varsity (merged w/FDR)
Boys' and Girls' Track – Varsity and Modified
Boys' Tennis – Varsity
Softball – Varsity, J.V. and Modified

PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERSCHOLASTIC PROGRAM

The Spackenkill Union Free School District believes that a dynamic program of student activities is vital to the educational development of its students. The Spackenkill Athletic Program should provide a variety of experiences to aid in the development of favorable habits and attitudes in students that will prepare them for adult life in a democratic society. The athletic program must function as an integral part of the total curriculum. Athletics must offer opportunities to serve the institution and assist in the development of fellowship, good will, self-realization, all-around growth, and good citizenship.

The program shall be managed and teams coached in a manner which strives to achieve the following objectives:

1. Promote individual and team desire for excellence while emphasizing those interscholastic sports be kept in perspective, so that the first priority for all students is intellectual and emotional growth.
2. To educate the student body in the appreciation of sports and activities and the best way to enjoy them from the point of view of good sportsmanship.
3. To serve as a focal point for the morale, spirit and loyalty of students by providing a common meeting ground and enthusiasm this is shared by all.
4. To allow for the development of physical growth, mental alertness and emotional stability for all those who participate in athletics.
5. To provide the opportunity for a student to learn to handle winning and losing and to make decisions that affect themselves and members of their team.
6. To learn to develop through hard work and dedication a feeling of self-confidence and self-esteem in all participants.

SCHEDULES

Schedules can be found at the following address: www.spackenkillschools.org/athletics

TRAVEL DIRECTIONS

A directory of travel directions can be found at the following address: www.spackenkillschools.org/athletics

SPORTS INFORMATION

Twitter - @ Spacksports

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A SPACKENKILL ATHLETE

Being a member of a Spackenkill athletic team is a privilege and honor. To many athletes, it is the fulfillment of an early ambition. As a member of an athletic squad at Spackenkill, you have inherited a great tradition. Your actions will reflect not only on those who you are associated with now, but also those who have contributed so much to our school in the past.

Many of our athletes have gone on to collegiate fame. Many others have established league, section and state records. Because of this fine tradition a challenge is set for you to work hard and to make sure that your actions reflect the standards that are set up by the athletic department.

In today's society, you will be asked to make sacrifices that will benefit yourself, your team and your school. Never before has the pressure of peer groups been so strong that you will now have to say "NO". In the long run you and your family will be proud of the sacrifices and dedication that you have put forth to be a member of our athletic teams. If you have taken this opportunity to make yourself a better individual, it will be truly a gratifying educational experience. The highs and lows of athletic competition are achieved through hard work, dedication and discipline and are rewarded with the development of fond memories and personal achievements.

Responsibilities to Yourself:

The most important of these responsibilities is to broaden you and develop strength of character. You owe it to yourself to get the greatest possible benefit from our athletic experiences. Your studies, your participation in other school activities as well as athletics, prepare you for your life as an adult.

Responsibilities to Your School:

Another responsibility you assume as a squad member is to your school. Spackenkill cannot maintain its position as an outstanding school unless you do your best in whatever activity you wish to engage. By participating in athletics to the maximum of your ability, you are contributing to the reputation of the school.

Responsibilities to Others:

You have a responsibility to your parents to always do the best you can. When participating in athletics, we sometimes feel we have failed if we have not won. By trying the best that you can and following all rules set up by your squad, you can feel justifiably proud of yourself no matter what the win-loss record of your team is.

Younger students look up to you and it is your responsibility to set a good example for them. They will copy a lot of things that you do just to be a member of your group. They need attention and guidance, so always take a few minutes to encourage them in whatever way possible.

**CITIZENSHIP.....
IT'S UP TO US**

SPACKENKILL STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

I recognize that being a member of the community carries with it responsibilities and rewards and, that as an athlete in the community; I must not only embrace those responsibilities, but also conduct myself both on and off the playing field in a way which exhibits respect for myself and for others. I therefore resolve to conduct myself with dignity as an athlete and as a citizen of the community, recognizing and accepting that I

- must accept responsibility for my behavior and its outcomes
- must honor my obligations and promises
- must exercise self-control
- must be willing to be fair with others in my dealings on and off the playing field
- must take pride in myself and my accomplishments, but never at the expense of demeaning another person or group
- must respect the efforts of others
- must respect authority
- must play by the spirit, not just the letter, of the rules of the game and the rules of life
- must strive to make my community - whether that be the team on which I play or the community in which I live - better because of my contributions as a member and as a citizen

SPORTSMANSHIP AT SPACKENKILL

There has been growing concern nation-wide about the conduct of players, coaches and spectators at athletic events. In many instances, young athletes and their fans have emulated the models exhibited by professional athletes. This type of “in your face” behavior has eroded the foundations of amateur athletics in the United States. However, concerned athletic administrators, coaches and community members have initiated campaigns to revitalize proper conduct at athletic events. We at Spackenkill believe that athletic competition can operate in an arena where intense competition may exist in conjunction with civility. Our goal is to foster an environment where respect is paramount and where the positive benefits of athletic competition may flourish.

EXPECTATIONS FOR SPACKENKILL ATHLETES

We believe that:

- ❖ Our athletes must respect their opponents. Taunting will not be tolerated.
- ❖ Our athletes must respect the decisions of the referees.
- ❖ Our athletes must respect their teammates and coaches.
- ❖ Our athletes must “play by the rules.”
- ❖ Our athletes must be under control and have appropriate behavior that includes language.
- ❖ We expect our student-athletes to display appropriate behavior and will work to reinforce positive sportsmanship.

NEW YORK PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION RULES

FOR STUDENT CONDUCT

The NYSPHSAA has become concerned enough about sportsmanship that they have enacted legislation that requires:

- ❖ An athlete who is removed from a contest for unsportsmanlike behavior will not be allowed to participate in the next scheduled contest.
- ❖ On the second offense during a season, the athlete will not be allowed to participate in the next two contests.
- ❖ On the third offense, the athlete will be banned from participation for the season.
- ❖ These penalties carry into post-season play if they occur at the conclusion of the regular season.

EXPECTATIONS FOR SPECTATOR CONDUCT

We believe that:

Spectators should cheer and applaud good plays by both teams.

- ❖ Spectators must refrain from making negative remarks about referees and other teams and their spectators. Spectators must always remember that the decisions of the officials must be respected.
- ❖ Positive remarks about our players and coaches are to be encouraged; negative remarks are to be discouraged.
- ❖ If spectators display unsportsmanlike behavior, district administrators or event chaperones may remove them from the site of the contest.

NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION CODE OF ETHICS

1. To emphasize the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.
2. To eliminate all possibilities which tend to destroy the best values of the game.
3. To stress the values derived from playing the game fairly.
4. To show cordial courtesy to visiting teams and officials.
5. To establish a happy relationship between visitors and hosts.
6. To respect the integrity and judgment of the sports officials.
7. To achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and standards of eligibility.
8. To encourage leadership, use of incentive and good judgment by the players on the team.
9. To recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social and emotional well-being of the individual players.
10. To remember that an athletic contest is only a game...not a matter of life or death for players, coach, school, officials, fans, community, state or nation.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY FOR HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

(5129)

The Academic Eligibility policy has been designed to establish standards for high school participation in athletics and all club activities, consistent with our first and most important mission – academic success. The policy is intended to foster standards that elevate student effort and reward consistent performance.

Because we recognize that these activities are a focus of community and school pride and that studies show that they are benchmarks for predicting success in later life, we want them to remain inherently educational and supportive of our school's academic mission. Academic excellence in our school is an important goal. We view this policy as a motivational tool, providing incentives for students to work harder and emphasizing the proper priorities.

Any student in grades 7 – 12 who participates in the following high school activities will be subject to the academic eligibility standard: Drama, Student Government, Debate, all interscholastic sports and all extracurricular activities and clubs which meet at least 3 hours per week.

Students who are failing 1 course at:

5 weeks, quarter or final grade - The students could practice and play as long as they:

1. Attended a daily study hall/remediation session. Failure to attend any one session would make them automatically ineligible to compete for 1 week.
2. They would remain in the daily study hall/remediation sessions for 5 weeks.

Students who are failing 2 courses at:

5 Weeks – They would be ineligible until one grade was raised to passing. They could still practice with the team, but could not play until the improvement stated above was made. At that time, they would be placed in the category of “1 failure” students. Grade checks will be done on a weekly basis and those grades will determine eligibility for the following week.

Quarter – They would be ineligible for 2 weeks, during which time they could practice but not compete. After the second week, the students could both practice **and** compete provided:

1. The students attended extra help sessions (would have to attend for 5 weeks).
2. A weekly check was done to determine the grade averages in their classes during the 5 weeks. If it was determined that the students were failing 2 or more classes, they would be ineligible to compete for the remainder of the 5 weeks (until the next grade check for 5 week or quarter grades). Grade checks will be done on a weekly basis and those grades will determine eligibility for the following week.

**** Students may only stay in this category for 5 weeks. If after 5 weeks they are still failing two, they will be removed from the team.***

Students who are failing 3 or more courses:

Students would be removed from teams, but would be referred to appropriate school personnel for assistance. They could return to the team at either the 5-week or quarter, provided they are failing 2 or less.

Final grades:

They would be treated the same as a student failing at the quarter and would be used to determine eligibility for fall sports. Summer school grades would be used to remove failures.

Appeals Process:

1. A student, parent or coach/advisor may appeal the status of a participant to a committee composed of the guidance counselor of the student, faculty member, the Athletic Director and an Administrator. If the teacher on the committee has the student in class, he/she may be asked to disqualify him/herself. The principal will select the faculty member. The appeal must be made to the committee in writing no later than 48 hours after notification of ineligibility. Every effort will be made to hear the appeal within 24 hours. Determination of the appeal will be made by the majority vote of the committee.
2. A subsequent appeal may be lodged in writing to the principal.

Approved by Board of Education: May 4, 2000

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Students who are failing 1 course at the end of:

5 weeks, quarter or final grade - The students will be able to practice and play as long as they:

1. Attend a daily study hall/remediation session with the teacher of the course they are failing. The teacher may designate another teacher or staff member to work with the student if the teacher has a meeting to attend. Failure to attend any one session without an excused absence could make the student automatically ineligible to compete for 1 week. *
2. The student will remain in the daily study hall/remediation sessions for 5 weeks.
3. This will be at the discretion of Administration/Principal.

**An exception is made during the first 5 weeks of the school year. The student will be spoken to and will be informed of all eligibility procedures. The eligibility protocol will be used starting at the end of the first quarter.*

Students who are failing 2 courses at the end of:

5 Weeks – The student will be ineligible to participate in the sport until one course has returned to passing. The student can still practice with the team, but cannot play until the improvement stated above is completed. At that time, the student will be placed in the category of “1 failure” students. Grade checks will be done on a weekly basis at the conclusion of each week. *

**An exception is made during the first 5 weeks of the school year. The student will be spoken to and will be informed of all eligibility procedures. During the first 5 week period the student will be allowed to practice and compete. The eligibility protocol will be used starting at the end of the first quarter.*

Quarter – The student will be ineligible for 2 weeks, during which time they can practice but not compete. After the second week, the students can both practice and compete provided:

1. The student attends extra help sessions (will have to attend for 5 weeks).
2. A weekly check has been completed to determine the grade averages in the specific classes during the 5 weeks. Grade checks will be done on a weekly basis at the conclusion of each week. If the student is not failing any classes or is failing 1 class they will become eligible for games at that time. If it is determined that the student is failing 2 or more classes, the student will be ineligible to compete for the remainder of the 5 weeks (until the next grade check for 5 week or quarter grades).

**** The student may only stay in this category for 5 weeks. If after 5 weeks the student remains failing two classes, he/she will be removed from the team.***

Students who are failing 3 or more courses: The student will be removed from the team and will be referred to appropriate school personnel for assistance. The student will be able to return to the team at the 5 week mark or end of quarter provided he/she is failing 2 or less classes.

**An exception is made during the first 5 weeks of the school year. The student will be spoken to and will be informed of all eligibility procedures. During the first 5 weeks of school the student can practice and compete provided:*

1. The student attends extra help sessions (will have to attend for 5 weeks).

2. A weekly check has been completed to determine the grade averages in the specific classes during the 5 weeks. If it is determined that the student is failing 2 or more classes, the student will be ineligible to compete for the remainder of the 5 weeks (until the next grade check for 5 week or quarter grades).

Grade checks will be done on a weekly basis at the conclusion of each week.

The eligibility protocol will be used starting at the end of the first quarter.

Final grades:

The student will be treated the same as a student failing at the quarter and will be used to determine eligibility for fall sports. Summer school grades will be used to remove failures.

Appeal Process:

Extracurricular and Athletic Appeal Process:

1. A student, parent or coach/advisor may appeal the status of a participant to a committee composed of the guidance counselor of the student, faculty member, the Athletic Director and an Administrator. If the teacher on the committee has the student in class, he/she may be asked to disqualify him/herself. The Principal will select the faculty member. The appeal must be made to the committee in writing no later than 48 hours after notification of ineligibility. Every effort will be made to hear the appeal within 24 hours. Determination of the appeal will be made by the majority vote of the committee.
2. A subsequent appeal may be lodged in writing to the principal.

SPACKENKILL ATHLETIC REGULATIONS

I. Parental Questions or Concerns:

A. Parent/coach relationship:

Both 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 benefit 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.

B. Communication you should expect from your child's coach:

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the squad.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements
5. Discipline that result in the denial of your child's participation.

C. *Communication coaches expect from parents:*

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your children become involved in the programs at Spackenkill, 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.

D. *Appropriate concerns to discuss with the coaches:*

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

It is difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those below, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

E. *Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:*

1. Playing time.
2. Team strategy.
3. Play calling.
4. 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 should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issues.

F. *If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, this is the procedure you should follow:*

1. Call to set up an appointment.
2. The number for the Spackenkill Athletic Office is 845-463-7824.
3. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director, Mr. Marco Lanzoni. He will set up the meeting for you.
4. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

G. *What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution:*

1. Call and set-up an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined.

II. Conduct:

- A. Any team member who engages in the proscribed conduct as set forth in these regulations or in the District's policy on school conduct and discipline or who engages in conduct that would constitute a violation of state or federal law will be subject to disciplinary action including suspension from the team. The sanctions are those set forth in the District Code on student conduct and discipline and in these regulations. A team member's attitude as demonstrated by conduct should show cooperation, participation, obedience and involvement. Failure to behave in this manner may result in penalties up to and including suspension from the team. **Student-athletes must keep in mind that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege.** Upon request, a student and his or her parents will be provided with the opportunity to have an informal meeting with the coach and/or athletic director, to discuss the

charges and to present their position before imposition of discipline pertaining to participation in athletics.

-9-

B. Being a member of an athletic team requires sacrifice and commitment on the part of our student-athletes and their parents. Students are expected to be at all practices and games unless unforeseen emergencies arise. Employment schedules and individual pursuits all have to be rescheduled during the athletic season.

C. There must be a personal commitment to excellence as well as a commitment to the entire team.

III. Equipment:

A. Players are responsible for all equipment issued to them. They should not expect managers, coaches or others to assume that obligation.

B. Equipment (school) issued to a player is to be used only for the purpose for which it was intended in practice or contests. No part of any uniform or equipment is to be used in physical education classes or in any way unless specific permission has been granted.

C. Lost, stolen or misused equipment will be charged to the individual responsible for it; the athlete will be required to make restitution. No award or further participation will be granted until restitution has been made.

D. Any player found to be in possession of unauthorized equipment would be suspended from the team.

IV. Physicals:

A. Athletes may use their personal physician's physical as long as it clearly states that they are cleared for athletic participation. Athletes should return these forms to the school nurse along with their parent permission form. The school medical director will review the physical and give final clearance. If no physical form is received, an examination by the school physician will be scheduled for the student. All physicals are valid for a 12-month period.

V. Parent Permission Forms:

A. Each student must return a completed and signed parent permission form to the school nurse before starting practice. This form outlines the health history of the student and signifies consent by the parent for participation.

B. Forms are available to download on the athletic web site – www.spackenkillschools.org/athletics

VI. Injury Procedure:

A. All injuries must be reported to the head coach immediately.

B. Any participant who misses a practice with a doctor's excuse may return to practice only with approval from the doctor. This requires the student to give this approval directly to the school nurse. The nurse will notify the coach that the student is approved to return to the team.

C. Medical expenses resulting from an injury must first be submitted to your own insurance carrier. Any remaining balance can be submitted to the school's accident insurance carrier by processing a claim by processing a claim form that can be obtained from the school nurse.

VII. Medical Insurance:

A. Students are covered when:

1. They are participating in a practice or contest of a covered sport.
2. Traveling to and from practice sessions and contests.

B. Filing procedure for Parents:

1. Make sure that the head coach has been notified (Immediately) of the injury.
2. The parents must file first using their own insurance.
3. If the insurance of the parents does not cover the complete bill, they should contact the school nurse for the appropriate form to file with the school insurance carrier.

VIII. Policy for Bus Trips:

- A.** Students belonging to any athletic team when attending any function connected with school activities where the school provides the transportation must use the transportation afforded by the school to the event and must return the same way. However, permission may be obtained for: (1) parents who wish to transport their own children home from an event and, (2) parents who would like another parent to transport his/her child home from an event. In both cases, a Transportation Permission Form must be obtained from the coach and completed prior to the event.
- B.** All school rules regarding conduct apply to team bus transportation.

IX. General Eligibility for Interscholastic Activities:

- A.** A boy/girl must be a bona fide student of the high school, taking at least four subjects and physical education.
- B.** Any student missing physical education class (whether due to a “cut,” refusal to participate or for medical reasons) will not be allowed to participate in a practice or contest, on the same day the student missed physical education or the day or days the medical excuse was written.
- C.** Students assigned any disciplinary suspension are not eligible to participate on the day(s) of the suspension. Students suspended on Friday will not be eligible to participate in weekend athletic events, including practices.
- D.** Eligibility for extra- and co-curricular activities, interscholastic sports shall be restricted for those students with excessive unexcused absences at the discretion of Administration.
- E.** Students must be in attendance for at least 5 periods in order to participate in after-school activities (unless prior approval is received from a school administrator).
- F.** Students leaving school due to illness may not participate in and/or attend extra-curricular activities and other school events unless specified otherwise by the school nurse.

X. New York State Athletic Association Eligibility Rules:

- A.** Age and Grade: According to the Commissioner of Education Regulations, a pupil shall be eligible for senior high school athletic competition in a sport during each of 4 consecutive seasons of such sport commencing with the pupil’s entry into the 9th grade and prior to graduation, except as otherwise provided in the Selection/Classification Program. The Selection/Classification Program permits pupils in the 7th and 8th grades to compete in senior high school competition provided that they meet the standards of this program.
- B.** A pupil approved through the Selection/Classification could conceivably be approved for frosh, J.V. and/or varsity competition beginning in 7th grade and continues through 12th grade. A pupil who attains the age of 19 years on or after July 1 may continue to participate during that school year in all sports as long as he/she has not graduated.
- C.** Amateur: A student who represents a school in an interscholastic sport shall be an amateur in that sport. An amateur is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the pleasure of the activity and for the benefits derived from participation. An athlete forfeits amateur status in a sport by:
 - 1. Competing for money or other compensation (travel, meals and lodging are acceptable).
 - 3. Receiving an award or prize of monetary value, which has not been approved by the NYSPHSAA (only awards/prizes less than \$50 will be approved).
 - 3. Capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money and gifts of monetary value (scholarships to higher institutions are exempted).
 - 4. Signing a professional playing contract in that sport.
- D.** Assumed Name: Participating under an assumed name in any athletic contest shall make the student/athlete ineligible in that sport for one year from the date of the violation.
- E.** College: A student is no longer eligible to represent the school in that sport in that season if he/she participates in practice or competition with or against any college athletic squad.
- F.** All-Star Contests: The only all-star contests that an athlete may participate in are the exceptional senior contests that are approved by the NYSPHSAA. Only seniors who have completed their eligibility may compete in the contests. Also, a contestant may compete in no more than one approved exceptional senior contest in the same sport during the same year.

G. Transfer Rule: This rule was established by the NYSPHSAA to control athletic recruitment and athletic shopping.

1. A student who transfers, with a corresponding change in residence of his/her parents (or other persons with whom the student has resided for at least 6 months) shall become eligible after starting regular attendance in the second school. A residence change must involve a move from one school district to another. Furthermore, when a student moves from one public school district to another public school district, for athletic eligibility, the student must enroll in the public school district of his/her parents' residency.
2. A student who transfers without a corresponding change in residence of his parents is ineligible to participate in any interscholastic athletic contest in a particular sport for a period of one year if the student participated in that sport at the J.V. or varsity level during the one-year period immediately preceding his/her transfer.
3. Exemptions to the above include a student who is a ward of the court. Also, students who are from separated or divorced parents may move into a new district with one of the parents once every 6 months.

XI. Training Rules:

A. The following carry a penalty of indefinite suspension from an athletic team regardless of where or when this conduct takes place during the sports season. This does not preclude police involvement.

1. Athletes shall not consume, possess, buy, sell or give away alcohol, tobacco, steroids, non-prescribed medications or any other substance the consumption and possession of which is prohibited by New York and/or Federal Law.
2. Student-athletes shall not be present at peer gatherings where alcohol or drugs are being illegally dispensed.
3. If a violation of these training rules occurs during the school day, at a school function or school trip the student will be suspended at a minimum for the duration of the athletic season.

Prior to any suspension taking effect, the athlete shall have an opportunity to meet with the coach or Athletic Director to present his/her side of the story as part of a general discussion of the conduct under review.

B. General rules pertaining to conduct and penalty:

1. Stealing – indefinite suspension.
2. Initiating a physical attack on a teammate, coach, spectator, official or opponent – indefinite suspension.
3. Misconduct – insubordination or unsportsmanlike conduct – indefinite suspension.
4. Failure to return issued equipment or make restitution – the athlete will be barred from any further competition on any team.

C. Sport specific rules:

There are different requirements for certain sports depending on their nature and rules. Some are outdoors, some are indoors; some are team oriented, others individual and some are both. The number of participants ranges widely on the different teams. Specific requirements such as the use of special equipment may also exist.

Therefore, coaches may have specific rules for a sport in addition to the general requirements of the NYSPHSAA, Section IX MHAL League and school rules. These rules should be clear to all team members and their parents. In addition, any disciplinary actions for infractions should be known beforehand.

Any athlete or parent who has questions or difficulties with the sport specific rules should communicate with the coach involved. It is hoped that in this manner Athletes, parents and coaches will work cooperatively toward the continued success of our athletic program.

XII. Hazing:

Hazing of any kind, including initiations, is prohibited on any Spackenkil team.

XIII. Absences from Practices and/or Contests:

A. The following procedures are to be followed by each team for vacation periods:

1. Team members and their families must be aware that there may be games and/or practices during certain vacation schedules and/or Saturdays.
2. Students must meet with the coach to obtain approval if they are faced with the possibility of missing practices or contests during these times. This must be done well in advance of the absences, preferably before the season starts.
3. When a request is made for an excused absence, the student must give the reason for the absence such as a family vacation that could not be scheduled at another time.

B. Reasons for other absences. Some examples of reasons beyond the student's control which will permit him/her to legitimately miss practices and/or contests are:

1. Medical and/or dental work which must be scheduled at a particular time.
2. Death in the family.
3. Sudden personal or immediate family illness.
4. Other specific unavoidable causes of conflict.
5. Each case will be judged on its' own merits.

C. In the event that the coach approves the student's absence, the athlete should be aware that there is a strong possibility that he/she could miss games upon his/her return to the team. Reasons of safety as well as team continuity and the philosophy of a coach will govern the duration of suspension from active participation in games. Also, an extended absence may mean that the student will have to re-qualify by completing the number of practice dates stipulated by New York State in order to compete

XIV. Changing Sports

Students may change from one sport to another provided that they have received permission from the coaches involved and the athletic director. If he/she has been cut from one team, it is legitimate to try-put for another provided that the coach permits the try-out. The athlete must understand that practices are sport specific and cannot count from one sport to another.

XV. Conflicts with Other School Activities

An individual student who attempts to participate in too many activities will undoubtedly be in a position of a conflict of obligations. The Athletic Department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in school activities and, to this end, will attempt to schedule events in a manner so as to minimize conflict. The athletes and parents/guardians must realize that many times schedules cannot be changed because of league or section regulations or facility usage.

Students have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid continuous conflicts. This would include being cautious about belonging to too many activities where conflicts are bound to happen. It also means notifying the coaches involved immediately when a conflict arises, not the day of the conflict.

Students who wish to compete in 2 sports/athletic activities in a season, including crew and cheerleading, may do so only if the following conditions are met:

- A.** Both of the coaches must meet with the student athlete and his/her parents. The coaches must both agree that participation in the 2 sports/athletic activities will be allowed.
- B.** The student-athlete and his/her parents must sign a form that indicates that the student-athlete will be participating in both sports/athletic activities, and also state which will be the primary one. If conflicts arise during the season that cannot be resolved by the coaches, the schedule for the primary sport must be followed.

XVI. Athletic Award System

Each individual coach will establish the criteria for earning a Varsity letter in his/her sport. Athletes unable to complete a season due to injury, illness or other such circumstances may earn a letter if the coach feels it is justified. Athletes must finish the season, including post-season play, in order to be eligible for an award.

The following awards are available in the Spackenkill Athletic Program:

- A.** Certificates: Participation certificates for modified, J.V. and non-letter winners. Varsity certificate for varsity letter winners.
- B.** Letters: One varsity letter will be issued to an individual for his/her high school career in all sports.
- C.** Inserts: Varsity student-athletes receive a pin the first year of participation and a service bar for subsequent years in each sport.

XVII. Athletic Placement Process

- A.** Students who are in grades 7 or 8 may try-out for frosh, J.V. or varsity teams provided that they meet the strict guidelines that have been established by New York State. The program is intended for students who have exceptional athletic talents in their sports and are capable emotionally and socially of meeting the demands of competing at higher levels. The District makes every effort to be certain that students are placed at an appropriate level and will use the Athletic Placement Process for limited cases.
- B.** The following steps must be taken in order to complete the Athletic Placement Process:
 - 1. Parents must obtain the Athletic Placement Process Form from the Athletic Office prior to the season, fill it out and return it.
 - 2. The coach must give his/her approval for the placement.
 - 3. A physical education teacher will administer a rigorous fitness test. New York State has established the test and 4 out of 5 components must be passed.
 - 4. The school physician or primary care provider will do a maturity screening. This involves the determination of the onset of puberty in both males and females.
- C.** If the above are completed successfully, the students will be given three days in all sports except football (five days) to try-out. If at the conclusion of the try-out period they do not make the team, they may still compete on the modified (grade 7 and 8) level.

ATHLETE'S PLEDGE

Each athlete must make a commitment to the athletic program to ensure success. Please read the following and pledge your commitment to adhere to these standards.

1. **ELEGIBILITY:** I agree to meet all eligibility requirements, to honestly and accurately provide the necessary eligibility information, and to work to maintain my eligibility.
2. **ATTENDANCE:** I shall maintain a good attendance record and will adhere to all attendance requirements established by the school and coach.
3. **COMMITMENT:** I agree to make a firm commitment to my teammates, my coach, my school, and myself.
4. **CONDUCT:** I shall adhere to all the rules and responsibilities as outlined by the school and my coach.
5. **CARE OF UNIFORMS and EQUIPMENT:** I accept responsibility for all equipment that is issued to me by the school. Further, I agree to properly use all team equipment.
6. **TRANSPORTATION and AWAY CONTESTS:** I agree to follow the transportation policy established by the school. I will adhere to the additional requirements established by my coach and the athletic department.
7. **TRAINING:** I understand that proper training is essential to my performance. I agree to adhere to the training regimen established by the coaching staff.
8. **STUDENT HANDBOOK:** I shall adhere to all rules and responsibilities as outlined by the Student Handbook and Code of Conduct.

By signing below, the student athlete indicates that he or she has received, read and understood the Athletic Handbook. Furthermore, the athlete promises to abide by its provisions.

Athlete's Name (please print)

Athlete's Signature & Date

Parent/Guardian's Name (please print)

Parent/Guardian's Signature & Date