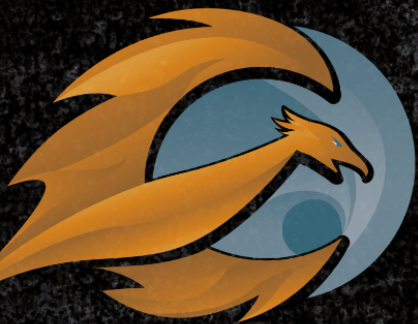




# QCUSD ATHLETICS

ENGAGE EMPOWER EXCEL

2026-2027 ATHLETICS HANDBOOK



**Queen Creek**  
Unified School District

**Our Vision:** Queen Creek Unified School District envisions a future where every student is inspired to excel academically and prepared to thrive in college, career, and life. Through innovative learning, strong community partnerships, and safe, supportive environments, we empower the next generation of confident, capable learners who are ready to lead and succeed.

**Our Mission:** Queen Creek Unified School District empowers each student to achieve excellence in all pursuits and lead with integrity.

**Our Priority Areas and Goals:**

| Student Success                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Safe and Healthy Environment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Exceptional Personnel                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Effective Partnerships                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Effective Operations and Systems                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Inspire all students to meet or exceed annual, individual, and academic goals.</p> <p>Prepare all students for post-graduation opportunities, responsible citizenship, and competition in a global economy.</p> <p>Empower each student with skills and tools that support being a confident, resilient, and healthy individual.</p> | <p>Ensure a safe and secure environment.</p> <p>Teach kindness, respect, and integrity.</p> <p>Provide opportunities that result in meaningful connections, resiliency, and coping skills.</p> <p>Raise awareness of mental health.</p> <p>Enhance diversity related educational opportunities.</p> | <p>Value and support all personnel.</p> <p>Recruit and retain highly qualified, diverse personnel.</p> <p>Maximize purposeful professional development to empower personnel.</p> <p>Encourage new and innovative ideas that foster collaboration, efficiency, and growth within the work environment.</p> | <p>Increase partnerships as a way to build mentoring opportunities, internships, and community business involvement.</p> <p>Communicate effectively to promote involvement and maximize opportunities for collaboration with all stakeholders.</p> <p>Ensure transparency by providing information used in the decision-making process.</p> | <p>Optimize use of funds through fiscal responsibility.</p> <p>Strategize use of resources through balanced planning.</p> <p>Manage District systems efficiently through key performance indicators.</p> <p>Continuously improve facilities and technology.</p> |

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## **QCUSD Athletics Philosophy Statement**

At Queen Creek Unified School District (QCUSD), we believe participation in school athletics is an important phase of the overall educational process. Athletics is an integral component of the total educational program, providing learning experiences that contribute to a student's physical, mental, social, and emotional growth. School athletics provide students with meaningful opportunities to learn important values such as accountability, self-discipline, leadership, citizenship, perseverance, responsibility, and teamwork through the realization of personal and team goals. While interscholastic athletic programs are generally designed to give opportunities to physically gifted students, where winning is an important goal, we believe our athletic programs should be expanded to include as many students as possible. A 'win at all cost' mentality is not part of our programs. We expect student-athletes to undertake the responsibility of exemplifying a positive school culture in a manner that their parents, teachers, and coaches can be proud of. As a result of their experiences in our athletic programs, we expect student-athletes to become better individuals and well-prepared, contributing members of our community and society.

QCUSD is a member of the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) and each of our secondary schools abide by AIA bylaws. Interscholastic athletic competition should demonstrate high standards of ethics and sportsmanship while promoting the development of good character. The highest potential of sports is achieved when all participants are committed to pursuing 'Victory with Honor' through the following six core principles:

1. Trustworthiness
2. Respect
3. Responsibility
4. Fairness
5. Caring
6. Good Citizenship

Pursuing 'Victory with Honor' applies to all coaches and student-athletes involved in interscholastic sports through the AIA. As coaches and student-athletes in QCUSD, we are all expected to adhere to and model these standards.

## Student-Athlete Eligibility Requirements

**Academic Requirements:** Student-athletes must be academically eligible to participate in school athletics. Please refer to this handbook and/or contact your school's Athletics Office with academic eligibility questions.

**Age Limit:** Student-athletes are eligible for eight (8) semesters from the time of enrollment in ninth grade. If a student becomes 19 years of age after September 1, (s)he is eligible for the remainder of the school year.

**Attendance Boundaries:** Student-athletes are eligible in the school attendance boundaries in which they reside. If a student-athlete does not live in a school's boundaries, (s)he must have an approved open enrollment form on file and meet all other AIA eligibility requirements.

**Code of Conduct:** Please review the QCUSD Athletics Handbook with your student-athlete.

**Physicals / Eligibility Documents:** QCUSD schools utilize [Register My Athlete](#) as its online eligibility platform. Families electronically sign and upload all eligibility documents, including the AIA Annual Physical Evaluation forms, onto this platform. The following items must be submitted and approved on Register My Athlete before a student is cleared to participate in practice or tryouts:

- Physical Evaluation & Examination (on or after March 1 of the previous school year)  
*completed each school year; forms available on Register My Athlete*
- Brainbook Concussion Education - Certificate of Completion  
*completed one time during school career; available at <https://academy.azpreps365.com>*
- Opioid Education - Certificate of Completion  
*completed one time during school career; available at <https://academy.azpreps365.com>*
- Hazing Prevention - Certificate of Completion  
*completed one time during school career; available at <https://academy.azpreps365.com>*
- Review & Acknowledgement of Student-Athlete Eligibility Documents  
*completed each school year; available on Register My Athlete*
- Health Insurance  
*Required for participation in school athletics; contact school for optional insurance info*
- Athletics fee paid in bookstore or online
  - High School: reference QCUSD Fee Schedule
  - Junior High: reference QCUSD Fee Schedule
  - Non-cut sports: fee is due prior to participation
  - Cut sports: fee is due after tryouts and before first competition

### AIA Bylaw 15.7 Physical Examination Rule

A student shall not be allowed to practice or compete in interscholastic athletics until there is on file with the principal or designee a record of a preparticipation physical examination (PPE) performed by a doctor of medicine (M.D.), an osteopathic physician (D.O.), a naturopathic physician (N.D., N.M.D.), a certified registered nurse practitioner (N.P.) licensed to practice, a certified physician's assistant (PA-C) registered by the Joint Board Of Medical Examiners and the Osteopathic Examiners in Medicine and Surgery, or a certified chiropractic sports physician (CCSP). The principal or designee, if deemed advisable, may require a student to be reexamined.

# **The Arizona Accord**

## **Preamble**

At its best, athletic competition can hold intrinsic value for our society. It is a symbol of a great ideal: pursuing victory with honor. The love of sports is deeply embedded in our national consciousness. The values of millions of participants and spectators are directly and dramatically influenced by the values conveyed by organized sports. Thus, sports are a major social force that shapes the quality and character of the American culture. In the belief that the impact of sports can and should enhance the character and uplift the ethics of the nation, we seek to establish a framework of principles and a common language of values that can be adopted and practiced widely.

## **It is therefore agreed:**

- The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these "six pillars of character."
- It is the duty of school boards, superintendents, school administrators, parents and school sports leadership-including coaches, athletic administrators, program directors and game officials-to promote sportsmanship and foster good character by teaching, enforcing, advocating and modeling these "six pillars of character."
- To promote sportsmanship and foster the development of good character, sports programs must be conducted in a manner that enhances the academic, emotional, social, physical and ethical development of student-athletes and teaches them positive life skills that will help them become personally successful and socially responsible.
- Participation in athletic programs is a privilege, not a right. To earn that privilege, student-athletes must abide by the rules and they must conduct themselves, on and off the field, as role models who exemplify good character.
- School boards, superintendents, school administrators, parents and school sports leadership shall establish standards for participation by adopting and enforcing codes of conduct for coaches, athletes, parents, spectators.
- All sports participants must consistently demonstrate and demand scrupulous integrity and observe and enforce the spirit as well as the letter of the rules.
- The importance of character, ethics and sportsmanship should be emphasized in all communications directed to student-athletes and their parents.
- School boards, superintendents, school administrators, parents and school sports leadership must ensure that the first priority of their student-athletes is a serious commitment to getting an education and developing the academic skills and character to succeed.
- School boards, superintendents, principals, school administrators and everyone involved in sports program governance must maintain ultimate responsibility for the quality and integrity of these programs. Such individuals must assure that education and character development responsibilities are not compromised to achieve sports performance goals and that the academic, social, emotional, physical and ethical well-being of student-athletes is always placed above desires and pressures to win.
- All employees of the school must be directly involved in and committed to the academic success of student-athletes and the character-building goals of the school.
- Everyone involved in athletic competition-including parents, spectators, associated student body leaders and auxiliary groups- has a duty to honor the traditions of the sport and to treat other participants with respect. Coaches have a special responsibility to model respectful behavior and the duty to demand that their athletes refrain from disrespectful conduct, including verbal abuse of opponents and officials, profane or belligerent trash-talking, taunting and inappropriate celebrations.
- School boards, superintendents and school administrators must ensure that coaches, whether paid or voluntary, are competent to coach. Training or experience may determine minimal competence. These competencies include basic knowledge of: 1) the character-building aspects of sports, including techniques and methods of

teaching and reinforcing the core values comprising sportsmanship and good character; 2) the physical capacities and limitations of the age group coaches, as well as first aid; and 3) coaching principles and the rules and strategies of the sport.

- Because of the powerful potential of sports as a vehicle for positive personal growth, a broad spectrum of sports experiences should be made available to all of our diverse communities.
- To safeguard the health of athletes and the integrity of the sport, sports programs must prohibit the use of alcohol, tobacco, drugs and performance-enhancing substances, as well as demand compliance with all laws and regulations, including those relating to gambling and the use of drugs.
- Schools that offer athletic programs must safeguard the integrity of their programs. Commercial relationships should be continually monitored to ensure against inappropriate exploitation of the school's name or reputation. There should be no undue interference or influence of commercial interests. In addition, sports programs must be prudent, avoiding undue financial dependency on particular companies or sponsors.
- The profession of coaching is a profession of teaching. In addition to teaching the mental and physical dimensions of their sport, coaches, through words and example, must also strive to build the character of their athletes by teaching them to be trustworthy, respectful, responsible, fair, caring and good citizens.

## **Student-Athlete Code of Conduct**

Interscholastic athletic competition should demonstrate high standards of ethics and sportsmanship while promoting the development of good character. The highest potential of sports is achieved when all participants are committed to pursuing 'Victory with Honor' through the following six core principles:

- |                    |            |                     |
|--------------------|------------|---------------------|
| 1. Trustworthiness | 2. Respect | 3. Responsibility   |
| 4. Fairness        | 5. Caring  | 6. Good Citizenship |

Pursuing 'Victory with Honor' applies to all student-athletes involved in interscholastic sports through the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA). Student-athletes in QCUSD are expected to adhere to and model these standards.

### **Trustworthiness**

- *Trustworthiness* - be worthy of trust in all that you do.
- *Integrity* - live up to high ideals of ethics and sportsmanship and always pursue victory with honor; do what is right even when it is unpopular or personally costly.
- *Honesty* - live and compete honorably; don't lie, cheat, or steal or engage in any other dishonest or unsportsmanlike conduct.
- *Reliability* - fulfill commitments, do what I say I will do; be on time to practices and games.
- *Loyalty* - be loyal to my school and team; put the team above personal.

### **Respect**

- *Respect* - treat all people with respect all the time and require the same of other student-athletes.
- *Class* - live and play with class; be a good sport; be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity; give fallen opponents help; compliment extraordinary performance; show sincere respect in pre and post game rituals.
- *Disrespectful Conduct* - don't engage in disrespectful conduct of any sort such as profanity, obscene gestures, offensive remarks of a sexual or racial nature, trash-talking, taunting, boastful celebrations, or other actions that demean individuals or the sport.
- *Respect Officials* - treat contest officials with respect; don't complain about or argue with officials' calls or decisions during or after an athletic event.

## **Responsibility**

- *Importance of Education* - commit to being a student first; be honest with yourself about the likelihood of getting an athletic scholarship or playing at the professional level and remember that many universities will not recruit athletes that do not demonstrate an ability to succeed academically or the character to honorably represent their institution.
- *Role Modeling* - participation in sports is a privilege, not a right; student-athletes are expected to represent their school, coaches, and teammates with honor both on and off the field; Consistently exhibit good character and conduct yourself as a positive role model.
- *Self Control* - exercise self control; don't fight or show excessive displays of anger or frustration; have the strength to overcome the temptation to retaliate.
- *Healthy Lifestyle* - safeguard your health; don't use illegal or unhealthy substances such as alcohol, tobacco, or drugs; don't engage in unhealthy techniques to gain, lose, or maintain weight.
- *Integrity of the Game* - protect the integrity of the game; don't gamble; play the game according to the rules.
- *Sexual Conduct* - sexual or romantic contact of any sort between students and coaches is improper and strictly forbidden. Report misconduct to the proper authorities.

## **Fairness**

- *Be Fair* - live up to the high standards of fair play; be open minded; always be willing to listen and learn.

## **Caring**

- *Concern for Others* - demonstrate concern for others; never intentionally injure any player or engage in reckless behavior that might cause injury to yourself or others.
- *Teammates* - help promote the well-being of teammates by positive counseling and encouragement or by reporting any unhealthy or dangerous conduct to coaches.

## **Citizenship**

- *Play by the Rules* - maintain a thorough knowledge of and abide by all applicable competition rules.
- *Spirit of the Rules* - honor the spirit and the letter of the rules; avoid temptations to gain competitive advantage through improper gamesmanship techniques that violate the highest traditions of sportsmanship.

## **QCUSD Athletics Code of Conduct Objectives**

It is our goal that participation in athletics will provide each student-athlete with meaningful opportunities to learn important values such as accountability, self-discipline, leadership, citizenship, perseverance, responsibility, and teamwork through the realization of personal and team goals. As a result of their experiences in our athletic programs, we expect student-athletes to become better individuals and well-prepared, contributing members of society.

**Be Successful:** In order to be successful, a person must develop the characteristics of self-discipline, hard work, and self-sacrifice. Student-athletes must also develop the desire to excel in competition.

**Exhibit Good Sportsmanship:** Student-athletes must strive to accept both success and defeat like a true sportsman, knowing that they have given their best effort. We believe in "Victory with Honor."

**Constantly Seek Improvement:** Every student-athlete must establish personal goals and strive to improve personal skills to positively contribute to the team's goals.

**Develop Desirable Personal Health Habits:** Each student-athlete must strive to develop the necessary self-discipline to maintain a high level of fitness and good health habits.

## **Conduct & Behavior of Student-Athletes**

During competition, a student-athlete will not use profanity or suggestive sign language, or employ illegal tactics. Losing/failure is part of competition and one must be gracious in defeat and modest in victory.

Successful athletes are also successful students. Representing your school as a student-athlete is a privilege that must be earned through good grades and exemplary classroom behavior. Student-athletes must realize they represent their families, school, and the Queen Creek community at all times.

During their season of competition, student-athletes will not attend any activities where any drugs and/or alcohol are present. For a first violation, a student-athlete loses eligibility for 1-2 games. For a second violation, a student-athlete becomes ineligible for the remainder of the season.

During their season of competition, student-athletes will not use, possess, or distribute any drugs or alcohol. For a first violation, a student-athlete loses eligibility for four (4) school weeks with an opportunity to reduce the loss of eligibility time to two school weeks by completing a school-approved intervention program. For a second violation, a student-athlete loses eligibility for the remainder of the student's high school career. The student-athlete may appeal for readmittance into athletics after a period of one calendar year.

Any behavior that results in dishonor of the individual athlete, team, or school will not be tolerated. Incidents that violate the District's Student Code of Conduct including, but not limited to, disrespect, bullying, harassment, hazing, theft, vandalism, violence, or criminal violations will result in disciplinary action up to and including removal from the school's athletics program.

Sports programs may institute their own specific rules and expectations for student-athletes provided the rules and/or expectations do not contradict District policy or AIA bylaws. A program's rules and expectations must be reviewed and approved by the School Athletics Director, as well as communicated to student-athletes and parents.

## **Academic Eligibility Requirements**

### **Junior High**

All junior high student-athletes must meet academic eligibility requirements every official grading period. Official grade reports are taken every 4 ½ weeks (i.e. progress report, quarter, end of semester).

At each official grading period, a student receiving a 64% or lower in any class shall be declared academically ineligible and not permitted to participate in competition. Written notice to students and their parents/guardians will be provided when ineligibility has been determined. At the discretion of the coach, an ineligible student may continue practicing with the team during the student's period of ineligibility. As soon as a student's grades are improved to 65% or higher in all classes, the student immediately becomes eligible. The student is then monitored on a weekly basis for eligibility status until the next official grading period.

Student-athletes may not be deemed academically ineligible during a two-week break or at the start of a semester. Course grades reset at the beginning of each semester.

At the discretion of school administration, a coach may conduct unofficial grade checks throughout the season in order to communicate potential ineligibility to student-athletes and parents. It is the responsibility of both the student and coach to conduct an unofficial grade check one week prior to an official grading period to develop a plan of action to improve any grades lower than a 65%. Oral or written preliminary notice of pending ineligibility will be provided to students and their parents/guardians.

A student must be in attendance for at least three classes during the school day to participate in the day's practice or competition. A student that is suspended (in-school or out-of-school) may not compete during the time of suspension.

## **High School**

All high school student-athletes, including students enrolled in Queen Creek Virtual Academy, must be enrolled in a minimum of five classes to be eligible to participate in athletics.

All high school student-athletes must meet academic eligibility requirements every official grading period. Official grade reports are taken every 4 ½ weeks (i.e. progress report, quarter, end of semester). Eligibility checks for Queen Creek Virtual Academy students will be determined by student progress in enrolled classes.

At each official grading period, a student receiving a 64% or lower in any class shall be declared academically ineligible and not permitted to participate in competition. Written notice to students and their parents/guardians will be provided when ineligibility has been determined. At the discretion of the coach, an ineligible student may continue practicing with the team during the student's period of ineligibility. As soon as a student's grades are improved to 65% or higher in all classes, the student immediately becomes eligible. The student is then monitored on a weekly basis for eligibility status until the next official grading period.

Student-athletes may not be deemed academically ineligible during a two-week break or at the start of a semester. Course grades reset at the beginning of each semester.

At the discretion of school administration, a coach may conduct unofficial grade checks throughout the season in order to communicate potential ineligibility to student-athletes and parents. It is the responsibility of both the student and coach to conduct an unofficial grade check one week prior to an official grading period to develop a plan of action to improve any grades lower than a 65%. Oral or written preliminary notice of pending ineligibility will be provided to students and their parents/guardians.

A student must be in attendance for at least three classes during the school day to participate in the day's practice or competition. A student that is suspended (in-school or out-of-school) may not compete during the time of suspension.

## **Notice of Nondiscrimination**

Queen Creek Unified School District abides by all applicable state and federal laws, rules, regulations, and executive orders. The District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, disability, pregnancy and parenting, sex, age, national origin, veteran's status, genetic code, or political affiliation in its programs and activities.

Questions, complaints, or requests for additional information regarding these laws may be forwarded to the designated compliance coordinator and/or to the Assistant Secretary for the Office for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education.

Inquiries or complaints concerning discrimination, including Title IX, should be referred to the following employees:

### **Compliance Officer for Title IX**

Dr. James Gowdy, Director of Athletics and Support Services / Title IX Coordinator  
20217 E. Chandler Heights Road  
Queen Creek, AZ 85142  
480-987-5935

### **Compliance Officer for Section 504**

Mr. Steven Ray, Director of Special Education  
20435 Old Ellsworth Road  
Queen Creek, AZ 85142  
480-987-5935

## **Hazing Prevention Policy**

This policy applies to all student-athletes and school personnel including principals, athletic directors, coaches, teachers, and staff.

### **Policy 5-305 Student Code of Conduct**

A student shall not engage in any activity involving an initiation, hazing, intimidation, assault, or other activity related to group affiliation that is likely to cause, or does cause bodily injury, mental harm, or personal degradation or humiliation. All initiations, including those related to any school club, athletic team, or other group are subject to these prohibitions whether or not the conduct occurs on school grounds.

### **Policy 5-408 Hazing Prevention**

Hazing is prohibited. Solicitation to engage in hazing is prohibited. Aiding and abetting another person who is engaged in hazing is prohibited. A person commits hazing by intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly, for the purpose of pre-initiation activities, pledging, initiating, holding office, admitting, or affiliating a student into or with an organization or for the purpose of continuing, reinstating, or enhancing a student's membership or status in an organization, causing, coercing, or forcing a student to engage in or endure any of the following:

1. Sexual humiliation or brutality, including forced nudity or an act of sexual penetration, or both;
2. Conduct or conditions, including physical or psychological tactics, that are reasonably calculated to cause severe mental distress to the student, including activities that are reasonably calculated to cause the student to harm themselves or others;
3. The consumption of any food, nonalcoholic liquid, alcoholic liquid, drug, or other substance that poses a substantial risk of death, physical injury, or emotional harm;
4. An act of restraint or confinement in a small space or significant sleep deprivation;
5. Conduct or conditions that violate a federal or state criminal law and that pose a substantial risk of death or physical injury; or
6. Physical brutality or any other conduct or conditions that pose a substantial risk of death or physical injury, including whipping, beating, paddling, branding, electric shocking, placing harmful substances on the body, excessive exercise or calisthenics, or unhealthy exposure to the elements.
  - a. With the intent to promote or aid the commission of hazing, agreeing with one or more persons that at least one of them or another person will engage in hazing and one of the parties commits an overt act in furtherance of hazing.
  - b. Intentionally or knowingly engaging in conduct that would constitute hazing if the attendant circumstances were as the person believes them to be.
  - c. Intentionally or knowingly doing anything that, under the circumstances as the person believes them to be, is any step in a course of conduct planned to culminate in committing hazing.
  - d. Intentionally or knowingly engaging in conduct that is intended to aid another to commit hazing, although the hazing is not committed or attempted by the other person.

This Policy shall not be construed to apply to customary athletic events, contests, or competitions that are sponsored by the school or to any activity or conduct that furthers the goals of a legitimate educational curriculum, legitimate extracurricular program, or legitimate military training program.

Victim consent to or acquiescence in hazing is not a defense to a violation of this Policy.

All students, teachers, and staff shall take reasonable measures within the scope of their individual authority to prevent violations of this Policy.

Complaints of hazing and violations of this Policy should be reported to the principal or assistant principal of the school that sponsors the organization or where any student allegedly involved is enrolled. The principal, assistant principal, or

designee shall promptly investigate all complaints of hazing and violations of this Policy. Violations of this Policy shall be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency whenever a crime is reasonably suspected to have occurred.

Students who violate this Policy are subject to disciplinary action, including suspension and expulsion. Any teacher or staff who knowingly allows, authorizes, or condones a violation of this Policy is subject to disciplinary action, including suspension without pay and termination of employment. Any organization that knowingly allows, authorizes, or condones a violation of this Policy may have its permission to conduct operations at the school suspended or revoked. All persons and organizations alleged to have violated this Policy are entitled to appropriate due process, including the right to appeal the discipline or sanction to the next administrative level.

### **Reporting/Complaint Procedure**

Students and others may report hazing to any professional staff member. Professional staff members must report the incident to the school administrator or next higher administrative supervisor, in writing, with such details as may have been provided. A failure by a staff member to timely inform the school administrator or next higher administrative supervisor of a hazing allegation or their observation of an incident of hazing may subject the staff member to disciplinary action in accord with school policies. The staff member shall preserve the confidentiality of those involved, disclosing the incident only to the appropriate school administrator or next higher administrative supervisor or as otherwise required by law. Any instance of reported or observed hazing which includes possible child abuse or violations of statutes known to the staff member shall be treated in accord with statutory requirements and be reported to a law enforcement agency.

The report/complaint will be investigated by the school administrator or a supervising administrator. The procedures to be followed are:

- An investigation of the reported incident or activity shall be made within ten (10) school days when school is in session or within fifteen (15) days during which the school offices are open for business when school is not in session. Extension of the timeline may only be by necessity as determined by the Superintendent.
- The investigator shall meet with the person who reported the incident at or before the end of the time period and shall discuss the investigation and conclusions. Confidentiality of records and student information related to disciplinary actions, if any taken, shall be observed in the process of meeting with the person who reported the incident.
- The investigator shall prepare a written report of the findings and a copy of the report shall be provided to the Superintendent.
- All violations of this policy shall be treated in accord with the appropriate procedures and penalties provided for in school policies related to the conduct and discipline of students, staff, and others.

## **Student Violence, Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying**

### **Policy 5-305 Student Code of Conduct**

A student shall not engage, or attempt to engage, in any conduct that is reasonably likely to disrupt, or that does disrupt, any school function process, or activity. A student shall not possess or use a firearm, weapon, explosive, fireworks, or any other instrument capable of harming any person or property or that reasonably would create the impression of such harm. A student shall not verbally or physically threaten, abuse, assault, or engage in a fight with any student, school employee, or any other person. A student shall not use defamatory words or phrases or distribute defamatory materials. Defamatory words or materials are those that are false and expose a person to hatred, contempt, ridicule, disgust, or an equivalent reaction to or are false and have a tendency to impugn a person's occupation, business, or office. A student shall not harass another person. Harassment includes, but is not limited to, verbal abuse that insults or humiliates others. It also includes sexual innuendos, unsolicited and unwelcome conduct that has sexual overtones, or continuing to express sexual or social interest after being informed that the interest is unwelcome. Harassment also includes non-sexually oriented conduct that includes words, actions, jokes, or comments based upon an individual's sex, disability, race, national origin, religion, political beliefs/affiliation, marital status, home language, family, social or cultural background, or other legally protected characteristic.

**Bullying** means any aggressive, intentional behavior carried out by a person or group repeatedly and over time against a victim who cannot easily defend himself or herself. Bullying requires an observed or perceived imbalance of power such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity between the bully and victim. It also includes actions that contribute to a substantial risk of, or cause, injury, mental harm, degradation, or social exclusion. Types of bullying include verbal (using words, statements, teasing, or name-calling), physical (physical force such as pushing, hitting, punching, kicking or spitting), social (hurting someone's reputation or relationships through isolation, social exclusion, spreading rumors), and cyberbullying.

**Cyberbullying** involves using electronic technology or social networking sites on school property or at a school-sponsored event to send mean text messages or emails, start rumors, or post embarrassing pictures or videos. Cyberbullying also includes any act of bullying committed on school computers, networks, forums and mailing lists, or other District-owned property, and by means of an individual's personal electronic media and equipment.

**Harassment** is intentional behavior by a student or group of students that is disturbing or threatening to another student or group of students. Intentional behaviors that characterize harassment include, but are not limited to, stalking, hazing, social exclusion, name calling, unwanted physical contact, unwelcome verbal or written comments, photographs and graphics. Harassment may be related, but not limited to, race, religion, sex, cultural background, economic status, size, or personal appearance. Harassing behaviors can be direct or indirect and by use of social media.

**Intimidation** means any behavior by one student toward another student intended to induce fear of physical or emotional harm. Intimidation can be manifested either directly or indirectly, and by use of social media. In addition, intimidation may include deterring or coercing a person or group of people to take an action they do not want to take.

#### **Policy 5-409 Prohibition on Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying**

Harassment, intimidation, and bullying are prohibited on school grounds, school property, school buses, at school bus stops, at school-sponsored events and activities, and through the use of electronic technology or electronic communication on school computers, networks, forums or mailing lists. Disciplinary action may result for bullying which occurs outside of the school when such bullying results in substantial physical, mental, or emotional negative effect on the victim while on school grounds, school property, school buses, at school bus stops, or at school sponsored events and activities, or when such act(s) interfere with the authority of the school system to maintain order. All suspected violations of law will be reported to local law enforcement.

#### **Reporting Incidents of Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying**

Students who believe they are experiencing harassment, intimidation, or bullying, or suspect another student is experiencing harassment, intimidation, or bullying, are to report the situation to the school administrator, another school employee, or the QCUSD Safe Hotline. All schools shall make a written form available for the reporting of incidents of harassment, intimidation, or bullying. School personnel shall maintain confidentiality of the reported information while notifying parents or guardians if their student is the target of harassment, threatening, or intimidating behavior. Reprisal by any student or staff member directed towards a student or employee related to the reporting of a case of bullying or a suspected case of bullying shall not be tolerated, and the individual(s) will be subject to discipline set out in applicable District policies and administrative regulations. Students found to be harassing, intimidating, or bullying others will be disciplined up to and including suspension or expulsion from school. Violations of this Policy shall be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency whenever a crime is reasonably suspected to have occurred. Knowingly submitting a false report under this policy shall subject the student to discipline up to and including suspension. Where disciplinary action is necessary pursuant to any part of this policy, relevant District policies shall be followed.

## **Drug Testing**

Illegal drugs present an especially hazardous threat to the health, safety and welfare of students who participate in athletics. For example, athletes who use steroids cause damage to their own bodies and may participate in a sport in a manner that could endanger the health and safety of other participants. While the Governing Board encourages students to participate in athletics, it also believes that the opportunity to try out and play is not an absolute right. Rather, it is a privilege offered to students on an equal opportunity basis.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the drug testing program is to protect the health, safety and welfare of all students participating on teams and using our athletic facilities for conditioning during the year. The District also desires to help the parents to better serve the needs of the students. Before a student is eligible to try out for a team or use the facilities during off-season in our supervised weight program, he/she must agree to submit to testing for the use of drugs according to the attached procedures. It is understood that the testing procedures may be on a random basis to be conducted one to four times monthly. Up to 25% of the participants will be tested each season.

### **Random Testing will Occur**

High School athletes competing in AIA-sanctioned athletic programs and activities are subject to this policy.

### **A Positive Test Results in Loss of Eligibility**

A student-athlete found to have an illegal drug in his/her system will lose athletic eligibility according to the attached procedures. The consequences for a positive test result will not affect school attendance or academic standing. Test results will not be disclosed to any law enforcement agency. In all cases, the consequence will be limited to a period of ineligibility from athletics. For the first positive test, a student-athlete loses eligibility for four (4) school weeks with an opportunity for the athlete to reduce the loss of eligibility time to two school weeks by completing a school district approved intervention program. A second positive test will result in permanent loss of privileges for the rest of the student's high school career. However, following a second positive test, the parent and athlete may appeal for readmittance into athletics after a period of one school year by showing the problem has been resolved.

### **Students may Volunteer for Testing and Intervention**

Student-athletes who voluntarily submit to drug testing and enter an approved intervention program will be exempt from the random drug testing. Exemption from random drug testing will last no longer than the current season and the athlete must submit a negative drug test in order to continue playing.

### **Illegal Drugs Defined**

The following drugs will be screened in our testing program: alcohol, barbiturates (downers), benzodiazepines (bennies or uppers), cocaine (coke), methaqualone (Quaalude), opiates (codeine, heroin, morphine, methadone), phencyclidine (PCP, angel dust), stimulants (speed), cannabinoids (marijuana), and anabolic steroids. A positive test sample will mean a predetermined level of detection has been exceeded and that level is unacceptable. Detection levels for each of the above drugs will be determined and all athletes and parents will be informed of the detection levels prior to signing consent forms. All new illegal drugs will be tested at the discretion of the Superintendent or Athletic Director.

### **Parent and Student-Athlete Orientation**

As a part of a school's normal athletic meetings, student-athletes and parents will be instructed on the dangers of drug abuse, including the use of steroids.

## **Signed Consent Required**

The Parent/guardian and student-athlete must sign the “Drug Testing Consent” form in order to be eligible to participate in practice and contests. These forms must be signed in front of a certified coach, administrator, or notary.

## **Random Drawing of Assigned Numbers**

At the start of official practices, all athletes will be assigned a number for the season. Numbers will be placed in a container. There will be a random drawing of numbers witnessed by two certified personnel. Students whose numbers are drawn will be tested and the numbers will be placed back in the container. These same numbers may be drawn at random again.

## **Tests Conducted on Urine Samples Collected by Trained Staff**

Tests will be conducted throughout the season. The athletes selected will provide a urine sample to be collected confidentially and in private at the school. The sample will be collected under the supervision of the school nurse, athletic trainer and/or an administrator (hereafter referred to as supervisor).

- A. Water in the toilet bowls will be colored and the supervisor will wait outside the stall until the sample is given.
- B. The supervisor will test the temperature of the sample and observe if the sample appears unusual.
- C. The sample will be divided into two containers in the presence of the athlete; one sample to be used to test for drugs of abuse and the other to be used to test for anabolic steroids.
- D. The supervisor will seal the samples and the supervisor will record the student’s numerical code on the sample containers to verify it is that athlete’s sample.
- E. The supervisor will place the samples in a locked refrigerator.
- F. The samples from all schools will be collected the same day and sent to the lab for testing.
- G. The supervisor will list all medication being taken by the student.

Any student refusing to submit a sample on the day of testing will be treated as a student with a positive test.

## **Samples Tested using EMIT and GC/M and Positive Tests are Confirmed**

All positive urine samples will remain under refrigeration at the lab for at least six months. The lab will first test the sample to assure it has not been adulterated. Lab personnel will analyze urine samples using EMIT (enzyme multiplied immunoassay technique, a drug screen), and confirm any positive indication with GC/MS (gas chromatography’s mass spectrometry). Steroid samples will be tested with the GC/MS procedure. The lab will forward the results under confidential cover to the athletic director or school nurse.

## **Confidentiality of Test Results**

The following individuals will have access to the test results: Principal, Assistant Principal, Athletic Director, and the nurse. Test results will be retained for a period of one year.

## **Samples Screened for Adulteration**

If a test shows evidence of adulteration, the athlete will be subject to loss of eligibility. The athlete will be given an opportunity to explain the results and may take advantage of the intervention alternative if the findings stand.

## **Athletes Testing Positive Encouraged to Seek Help**

If a test shows positive for the presence of any prohibited drugs, the athlete’s parents will be notified by an administrator and the athlete will be informed of the consequences and advised to seek assistance. Also, the athlete will be informed of the time when he/she may be tested again, and if clean, resume eligibility.

## **Parents may Request an Additional Confirmation Test**

If the athlete or parent/guardian desire another test of the remaining portion of the sample, the nurse will arrange for the additional confirmation analysis at the same lab. The confirmation test will be at the District expense. However, the District will not pay for an additional test requested by the parents beyond the confirmation test. If the parent objects to the second confirmation being conducted at the same lab, arrangements will be made to ship or courier the sample to another lab whose standards and procedures meet the testing requirements of the District. The District will provide two labs from which the parent and student may choose. If the results from the second confirmation test show the presence of drugs above the standard cutoff levels, the athlete will be deemed ineligible from the time notification is received by the athletic director or designee.

## **Lab Needing Information on Prescription Medications and Over-the-Counter Drug Use**

If a student has been on prescription medication with-in the past thirty (30) days, evidence of such use must be provided in case there is a connection with the test results. Notification of prescription drug use must be given to the coach in writing at the beginning of the season or at the onset of use, if after the beginning of the season. In addition to naming prescription drugs as a part of the “chain of custody” requirements of the lab, the athlete will be asked to list all over-the-counter drugs currently being used. This information goes to the lab with the sample. In all cases of positive results, the student-athlete will be given an opportunity to explain the results. If it is determined that a positive test is due to the presence of a prescription drug or an over-the-counter drug, the test will be considered negative.

## **Testing Following Return to Eligibility**

Student-athletes who resume eligibility after a first positive test will be subjected to random testing during the season.

## **Consequences for Multiple Positive Test Results**

Students who have a confirmed third positive test experience after regaining eligibility will be permanently removed from future eligibility in high school sports without further consideration/appeal.

## **Athletes Testing Positive are not Reported to Law Enforcement**

Athletes who test positive or who volunteer for help will not be reported to any law enforcement agency. Athletes who test positive or who volunteer for help will not be reported to any other agency unless the results demonstrate that there has been a violation of other Board policies or statutes, and/or the discovery of illegal drugs in the urine requires reporting according to statute.

## **Volunteering for Help**

Athletes who voluntarily come forward and ask for help for their drug problem should be given help without automatic loss of eligibility.

## **Informing Athletes about the Volunteer Program**

Coaches must inform the athletes at the start of official practice that if they have a problem with drugs, to speak with a coach. The coach will also advise the athlete of other staff members to whom they may talk about their drug-use related problems, including the athletic trainer, athletic director, nurse, counselors, or any of the administrators.

## **Initial Steps**

The coach or designee meets with the student-athlete to discuss the problem. The coach will then arrange a meeting with the student’s parents and possible other school personnel. The coach will become involved in helping the athlete and family take the first steps in obtaining professional help for the athlete. The family will select an agency from the

approved provider list to obtain an assessment and begin an intervention program. If the athlete changes his or her mind, the coach will ask for evidence (i.e. negative urine sample) before any further participation or competition is allowed. This step is necessary because if the coach plays an athlete that is using illegal drugs, that puts the athlete and school at risk.

### **Volunteering to be Tested**

When a student-athlete volunteers for help, a drug test is conducted as a first step in the intervention process. The athlete will not be subject to random drug testing since the athlete will be required to submit to at least two tests after the initial screening. The athlete will be referred to a local provider for testing for drugs of abuse. In most cases, the test for drugs of abuse will be at no cost. However, there is a cost to test the athlete for steroids. The urine sample to be tested for steroids will be drawn at the school and sent to the lab during the week of the random drug testing program. A positive test of a volunteer athlete will not be used to automatically remove eligibility. Instead, test results are used to help the provider complete an assessment on the extent of the student's drug problem. The assessment is necessary before an intervention program is designed. The volunteer athlete will remain a part of the team, but will not practice or compete in competition until a negative sample is verified by the District-approved lab. This second test is at the student/family expense. The athlete regains eligibility immediately upon lab verification of the negative sample and clearance from the doctor.

### **Status of Volunteer Athlete after Regaining Eligibility**

The status of student-athlete volunteers continues until the end of the season. If the season ends in less than six weeks, the status continues into the next season of competition. Once the volunteer athlete regains eligibility, at least two tests will have been conducted. One additional test at district expense will be conducted within four weeks of the athletes return to competition. Once the volunteer athlete has had two successive negative tests, the athlete is returned to the random testing program. For clarification, if the initial positive sample is among the drugs of abuse, retesting will be limited to drugs of abuse. Similarly, if the initial positive test for steroids, retesting will be limited to steroids. After six weeks or the conclusion of the season (whichever time duration is longer), the volunteer athlete will be subject to random testing.

## **Sports Medicine**

### **Standard Operating Guidelines**

The highest priority of our sports medicine team is the health and well-being of our student-athletes. Injury is always possible while participating in athletics. Each high school has an athletic training facility, staffed daily with at least one athletic trainer daily. Each junior high receives sports medicine support from our high school staff. Each school has an assigned team doctor provided by an outside healthcare provider.

### **Consent to Treat**

As a member of the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA), Queen Creek Unified School District requires as a pre-condition of participation in interscholastic activities, that a parent/guardian provide written consent to the rendering of necessary sports medicine services to their minor athlete by a qualified medical provider (QMP) employed or otherwise designated by the school, to the extent the QMP deems necessary to prevent harm to the student-athlete. It is understood that a QMP may be an athletic trainer, physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner licensed by the state of Arizona, and who is acting in accordance with the scope of practice under their designated state license and any other requirement imposed by Arizona law. In emergency situations, the QMP may also be a certified paramedic or emergency medical technician, but only for the purpose of providing emergency care and transport as designated.

### **Student Assistants**

Any student assistant, under the supervision of the Head Athletic Trainer and in good standing with the school, may be allowed to travel with the teams as a first aid responder upon the permission of their parents, coaches, and Athletic Trainer. If injuries occur while a student assistant is assisting the Athletic Trainer, the student is not allowed to make any

medical decisions or dispense any medication, even over-the-counter medication. The student assistant may only assist the Athletic Trainer.

### **Doctor / Hospital Visit**

If a student-athlete visits a doctor or any other healthcare provider for any reason, sports-related or not, the athlete must obtain a clearance note and give the note to the school's Athletic Trainer upon return to school and/or athletic activity. Athletes will not be allowed to return to any form of activity without clearance from an appropriate healthcare provider per AIA bylaw 15.7 (i.e. doctor of medicine, osteopathic physician, naturopathic physician, certified nurse practitioner, certified physician's assistant, certified chiropractic sports physician). Healthcare providers not authorized by the AIA cannot clear an athlete who has been or is currently seeing a physician for any medical condition unless the attending physician has first cleared the athlete.

If a doctor's note is needed for clearance while traveling (ex. ringworm, soft-cast), a copy of the note will be given to the appropriate coach. The copy of the note must be returned to the Athletic Trainer when the note is no longer needed.

### **Medicine**

Coaches are not permitted to give any athlete any type of medication at any time. If an athlete requires prescription medication while competing (ex. asthma inhaler, Epi-Pen), the medication must be checked in with the Athletic Trainer before being placed in a kit or given to the coach. This medication can only be used if prescribed to the athlete. No other student may use the medication. Coaches can only assist in giving prescription medication in emergency situations. Over-the-counter medications cannot be given to any athlete by coaches or Athletic Trainer. Please do not place any over-the-counter medications in the medical kits provided by the Athletic Trainer. Any found medication will be removed and secured away from athletes by the Athletic Trainer.

## **Heat Index Guidelines**

QCUSD follows AIA sports medicine bylaws pertaining to heat acclimatization protocols, hydration strategies, and treatment of heat-related illness exhibited by a student-athlete. The school's certified Athletic Trainer and Athletics Director (or designee) are responsible for determining Heat Index zones from the combination of the most current temperature and humidity readings. Predictions regarding the readings may need to be conducted to ensure safe competition. In these cases, the maximum temperature and RH reported for the practice/event start time is utilized.

If the source of the temperature reading is in question, it is advised to be conservative and follow the modifications of the higher zone. Temperature measurements can be obtained by using a sling psychrometer or from internet weather-related sites such as weather.com or noaa.gov. [Example: 105 deg. F. + 35% RH = 140 (Danger Zone)]

### **Below Danger Zone (Under 135)**

Practice/competition as normal

- o Full pads
- o Regular running schedule (football, cross-country)
- o Water breaks every 15 minutes or as needed by the individual

### **Danger Zone (136-145)**

Practice/competition with modifications

- o Reduced amount of equipment worn
- o Adjust start time until readings return Below Danger Zone
- o Reduced running schedule
- o Water breaks every 10-15 minutes or as needed by the individual

**Critical Zone (146 and above)**

Practices modified; competition postponed, canceled, or rescheduled

- o No equipment worn
- o No running
- o Water breaks every 10-15 minutes or as needed by individual
- o Practice moved indoors
- o Practice or competition postponed until reading returns to Danger Zone
- o Practice or competition moved to a later date or time

## **Concussion Policy**

QCUSD follows AIA sports medicine bylaws. All AIA participating schools must have a concussion policy on file. The policy must address the following: (1) concussion education, (2) removal from play, and (3) return to play.

**Concussion Education**

All student-athletes shall complete the Brainbook online concussion education course. All student-athletes shall complete the course prior to participation in practice or competition. The course must be completed by a student-athlete only once. Parents and student-athletes must sign a form acknowledging education regarding concussion.

**Removal from Play**

An athlete, coach, licensed athletic trainer, team physician, official, or parent can remove an athlete from play. If an athlete is suspected to have a concussion by any member of the sports medicine staff, the athlete must be assessed for a concussion. Only an appropriate health care professional can refute the diagnosis of a concussion.

**Return to Play**

No athlete should return to play (RTP) or practice on the same day of a concussion. Any athlete suspected of having a concussion should be evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional that day. Any athlete suspected of having a concussion should be medically cleared by an appropriate health-care professional prior to resuming participation in any practice or competition. After medical clearance, return to play shall follow a step-wise protocol with provisions for delayed return to play based as directed by an appropriate health-care professional. Return to play should only occur after an athlete has returned to full school attendance without academic accommodations

Appropriate health-care professionals for Return to Play:

- Licensed Athletic Trainer
- Physician (MD/DO)
- Licensed Nurse Practitioner
- Physician's Assistant

**Step-wise Return to Play**

Step I - Symptom limited activity: daily activities that do not provoke symptoms

Step II - Light aerobic exercise: walking or stationary cycling at slow to medium pace; no resistance training.

Step III - Sport specific exercise: running or standing drills; no head impact activity.

Step IV - Non-contact training drills: harder training drills (ex: passing drills); may start progressive resistance training.

Step V - Full contact practice: following medical clearance, participate in normal training activities.

Step VI - Return to sport: normal game play.

### **Return to Academics**

*\* recommendations from AIA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee*

Cognitive rest, including reduced screen time, may be recommended for the first 24-28 hours.

Student-athletes can engage in sub-symptom cognitive activities as tolerated.

Cognitive exertions should be stopped if concussion symptoms exacerbation is more than mild and brief and may be resumed once symptoms have returned to their prior level. Mild symptom exacerbation is typically brief and does not delay recovery.

Schools should have protocols to facilitate academic support, especially those that address factors that may prolong return to the classroom (i.e. high symptom burden, social determinants of health).

Not all student-athletes will need academic support or a return to learn strategy. Step-wise protocols listed below are implemented on a case-by-case basis by an appropriate health-care professional.

While return to learn and return to sport strategies can occur in parallel, student-athletes should complete return to learn before unrestricted return to sport.

Returning an athlete to the classroom following a concussion should follow a return to learn progression.

#### **Step-wise Return to School**

Step I - Daily activities (non-school related) that do not give the athlete symptoms: typical activities that the athlete does during the day as long as they do not increase symptoms; start with 5-15 minutes at a time and gradually build up time duration.

Step II - School activities: homework, reading, or other cognitive activities outside of the classroom; if mental activity does not cause any symptoms, the athlete may be able to skip step 2 and return to school part time.

Step III - Return to school part-time: gradual introduction of school-work; student may need to start with a partial school day or with increased breaks during the day.

Step IV - Return to school full-time: gradually progress school activities until a full day can be tolerated.

### **Student-Athlete / Parent Questions & Concerns Procedure**

QCUSD encourages students and parents to communicate compliments, questions, and any concerns. Per QCUSD expectations, staff should respond to communications within 24 hours. To resolve a parent concern regarding their student-athlete, the following communication protocol should be followed:

1. Student speaks with the coach.
2. Student and parent speak with the coach.
3. Student and parent speak with the School Athletics Director.
4. Student and parent speak with the Principal.
5. Student and parent speak with the District Athletics Director.
6. If not resolved, contact the Assistant Superintendent of Secondary School who renders the final decision.

## **Fan Decorum**

All participants will represent our schools in a manner that brings pride to participants, programs, and community. School administration reserves the right to restrict attendance at games due to inappropriate behavior by any spectator.

- Parents and fans are discouraged from coaching (i.e. yelling) from the stands.
- Respect and honor the game-time decisions of coaches.
- Respect and honor the decisions of officials.
- Encourage and support all participants (players from all schools, coaches, officials, and support personnel)
- Focus on making positive comments relating to our athletic teams.
- Win or lose, opponents must be congratulated at the conclusion of the contest.
- Respect home and away facilities by keeping them clean and following any posted or published rules.

Per AIA Bylaw 16.3.4, any adult spectator that has been removed from a contest/game due to inappropriate behavior shall be required to complete the NFHS sportsmanship course and provide a certificate of completion prior to attending future contests/games. Any subsequent removal of the same spectator shall result in the inability of that spectator to attend contests/games for the remainder of the season of sport.

## **Event Pricing**

Junior High games are free to the public, with the exception of special tournaments.

Please reference the QCUSD Fee Schedule for high school ticket prices for all athletic events (Frosh/Soph, JV, Varsity).

High School Athletics Passes are available for purchase. Each pass covers attendance for all regular season home games at your student's high school. Passes are not accepted at AIA postseason events.

- \$30 - Student Pass
- \$75 - Senior Citizen Pass for 2 people 62+ yrs old
- \$150 - Family Pass for 2 people
- \$200 - Family Pass for 5 or less people
- \$250 - Family Pass for more than 5 People

## **Participation Fees**

Please reference the QCUSD Fee Schedule for junior high and high school sports fees.

Fees are per school, not district-wide.

All students must be cleared through the school's athletics office in order to begin participation in tryouts or practices. QCUSD schools utilize [Register My Athlete](#) as its online eligibility platform. Families electronically sign and upload all eligibility documents, including the AIA Annual Physical Evaluation forms, onto this platform.

## **Completion of a Sport**

Student-athletes should remain committed to their team, coaches, and teammates. Such commitment includes attending and participating in all practices and games for the duration of the entire season. Any student-athlete who wants to quit a team must have the approval of his/her parents, coach, and Athletic Director. The approval criteria will include an

evaluation of the circumstances related to the request and consideration of the overall benefit of the student no longer being on the team. Should a student-athlete decide to quit the team without approval being granted, the student-athlete may not transfer to another sport in the same season of competition.

## **Transportation of Student-Athletes**

All student-athletes must use district transportation when traveling for competition. If a team travels for practice, district transportation must also be used if such transportation is offered. Parents of a junior high student-athlete may request to transport their student after a game with prior approval from the school's Athletics Director and signing out their student with the coach. A high school student-athlete may request approval to use personal transportation for unique circumstances by submitting a Transportation Waiver Form to the school's Athletics Director for consideration.

## **Early Dismissal on Game Days**

Due to start times of some away games, and corresponding travel time, student-athletes may be dismissed early from class. Student-athletes are responsible for obtaining class assignments and making up any course work, including tests.

## **Equipment & Uniforms**

Team uniforms are to be used in all competitions. Teams may also have practice attire at the coach's discretion. A team may have "dress up" expectations during the school day on designated game days at the coach's discretion.

Student-athletes should always respect and take care of all issued equipment. Students will be held financially responsible for intentional abuse or loss of equipment. Student-athletes are responsible for returning all issued uniforms and equipment at the conclusion of the season. Failure to do so will result in a charge being applied to the student's school account. Students failing to return all issued uniforms and equipment, or failing to pay for missing items, shall not be permitted to participate in other sports until the student's account is cleared.

## **Social Media Guidelines**

Be careful with sharing identifying information on social networking sites. It is unwise to make available personal information such as date of birth, social security number, address, phone number, cell phone number, class schedule, bank account information, or details about your daily routine. Providing this information can facilitate identity theft or stalking.

Be aware that current and future employers, college coaches, and college admissions offices often access the information you place on social networking sites. Any information you post will provide an image of you to prospective employers, coaches, and administrators. Postings are considered public information. Protect yourself by maintaining a self-image that you, your family, and your school will take pride in.

Freedom of speech is not unlimited. Freedom of speech does not mean freedom from consequences. Social networking sites are NOT a place where you can say and do whatever you want without repercussions.

Carefully consider the photos and images you choose to post. Photos posted on social networking sites become the property of the site. You may delete the photo from your profile but it may indefinitely stay in the site's server. Internet search engines such as Google or may still find your posted image long after you have deleted it from your profile.

Be highly aware of your location settings on your phone and social networking apps.

## Social Media Agreement for Student-Athletes

Playing and competing on a Queen Creek Unified School District athletic team is a privilege. As a student-athlete, you are held in the highest regard and are seen as a role model in our school and community. You have the responsibility to portray yourself, your team, your coaches, and your school in a positive manner at all times.

You should be aware that third parties, including the media, faculty, future employers and college officials, can easily access your social media profiles and view all personal information. This includes all pictures, videos, comments, and posts. Inappropriate material found by third parties may affect the perception of you, your family, our school, and our community. This can also be detrimental to your future options such as college and profession.

Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include depictions or presentations of the following:

- Photos, videos, comments, or posts showing the personal use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, and vaping.
- Photos, videos, and comments of a sexual nature. This includes links to websites of a pornographic nature and other inappropriate material.
- Pictures, videos, comments or posters that condone drug-related activity. This includes images that portray the personal use of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.
- Online content that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning, or threatening toward any other individual or entity (ex: derogatory comments regarding another school; taunting comments aimed at a student-athlete, coach, or team at another school; derogatory comments against race and/or gender). No posts should depict or encourage unacceptable, violent, or illegal activities (ex: hazing, sexual harassment/assault, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, underage drinking, and illegal drug use).
- Content that demeans your coaches and/or teammates, or does not represent you and your school in a positive manner.

If you are ever in doubt of the appropriateness of your online public material, consider whether it upholds and positively reflects your own values and ethics as well as the high expectation of your parents, coaches, and peers. Always present a positive image and do not post anything that embarrasses yourself, the team, your family, or school.

By signing below, you affirm that you understand the Queen Creek Unified School District Social Media Guidelines for Student-Athletes and the social media requirements that you must adhere to as a student-athlete. Also, you affirm that failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in consequences that may include suspension or removal from your school's athletics program. You may be subject to additional penalties imposed by the school or district.

Student-Athlete Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student-Athlete Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Junior High Athletics Information**

### **Objectives & Outcomes**

To develop good citizenship and respect for rules and authority by:

- Instilling principles of justice, fair play, and good sportsmanship in students
- Winning and losing with humility and dignity
- Showing courtesy and respect to visiting teams and officials
- Respecting the integrity, values, personality and individuality of each athlete
- Maintaining a high level of integrity of all individuals involved with the athletic program
- Teaching the importance of fulfilling commitments
- Coaches demonstrating good sportsmanship that may be emulated by student athletes

To develop physical fitness excellence and understanding of the value of competition in our society by:

- Recognizing outstanding performance
- Emphasizing the educational value of trying to win and learning to compete
- Developing a sense of self-worth and self-control
- Teaching the values of hard work, dedication, competition, cooperation and perseverance

To promote interest and involvement in school athletics by:

- Providing enjoyable experiences for participants and spectators
- Establishing standards for athletes that reflect the behavior approved by the Queen Creek school community

To promote and contribute to the goals of the total education program at our junior high schools by:

- Development of physical fitness and realization that a healthy body increases the probability of effective learning
- Providing a strong program that attracts student-athlete interest and motivates a positive learning atmosphere
- Developing an attitude which will contribute positively to lifelong health and enjoyment of life

### **Junior High Athletics Mission Statement**

QCUSD junior high schools are committed to providing the best possible athletic programs for our students in practice and competition. We emphasize both individual and team commitment towards excellence. Rather than a “win at all cost” mindset, junior high competitions serve as valuable educational experiences which help students become better citizens and future leaders. As teachers and coaches, we emphasize proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play. Our junior high schools expect student-athletics to assume the responsibility of representing their school, administration, teachers, staff, parents, and community in such a way as to make the school proud of their participation.

### **East Valley Conference**

QCUSD junior high schools are members of East Valley Conference (EVC).

7th and 8th grade students may participate on school teams participating in the EVC.

For EVC information, game schedules, and standings, please visit <http://www.eastvalleyconference.org>

**East Valley Conference Member Schools**

|                               |                                                    |              |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Andersen JH                   | 1255 S. Dobson Rd.<br>Chandler, AZ 85224           | 480-883-5300 |
| Arizona College Prep          | 191 W. Erie Street<br>Chandler, AZ 85225           | 480-424-8000 |
| Bogle JH                      | 1600 W. Queen Creek Rd.<br>Chandler, AZ 85248      | 480-883-5500 |
| Casteel JH                    | 24901 S. Power Rd.<br>Queen Creek, AZ 85142        | 480-424-8132 |
| Cooley Middle School          | 1100 S. Recker Rd.<br>Gilbert, AZ 85296            | 480-279-8300 |
| Crismon JH                    | 21942 E Riggs Rd.<br>Queen Creek, AZ 85142         | 480-987-5583 |
| Eastmark JH                   | 9560 East Ray Road<br>Mesa, AZ 85212               | 480-474-6950 |
| Newell Barney<br>College Prep | 24937 S. Sossaman Rd.<br>Queen Creek, AZ 85242     | 480-474-6700 |
| Payne JH                      | 7655 S. Higley Rd.<br>Queen Creek, AZ 85142        | 480-224-2400 |
| Queen Creek JH                | 20435 S Old Ellsworth Rd,<br>Queen Creek, AZ 85142 | 480-987-5940 |
| Santan JH                     | 1550 E. Chandler Heights<br>Chandler, AZ 85225     | 480-883-4616 |
| Sossaman Middle School        | 18655 S .Jacaranda Blvd.<br>Queen Creek, AZ 85142  | 480-279-8500 |
| Willis JH                     | 401 S. McQueen Rd.<br>Chandler, AZ 85225           | 480-883-5712 |

## Junior High Sports Offerings

| East Valley Conference      |                            |                               |                                                              |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Quarter 1                   | Quarter 2                  | Quarter 3                     | Quarter 4                                                    |
| Wrestling                   | Boys Basketball (7th, 8th) | Boys Soccer (7th, 8th)        | Boys Volleyball (7th, 8th)                                   |
| Baseball (7th, 8th)         | Boys & Girls Cross Country | Girls Basketball (7th, 8th)   | Girls Soccer (7th, 8th)                                      |
| Girls Volleyball (7th, 8th) | Girls Softball (7th, 8th)  | Boys Flag Football (7th, 8th) | Boys & Girls Track & Field<br>Girls Flag Football (7th, 8th) |

Tryout schedules may vary due to tournament seeding & school breaks.

Tryouts are closed to parents and the public.

## Junior High Roster Sizes

In accordance with EVC Constitution, unless fewer athletes participate and complete tryouts, the minimum number of athletes on a roster for each contest is as follows:

|               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| Baseball      | 14        |
| Basketball    | 12        |
| Cross Country | Unlimited |
| Flag Football | 24        |
| Soccer        | 18        |
| Softball      | 14        |
| Track         | Unlimited |
| Volleyball    | 12        |
| Wrestling     | Unlimited |