NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, DISTRICT 25
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The IS 25Q Sharklete Athletics Participation Agreement

The Sharkletes' Way

Being part of a sports team is about much more than winning games. It is about working together, showing respect, building healthy habits, and representing your school community with pride. As a member of an athletic team, each Sharklete is expected to demonstrate teamwork, responsibility, perseverance, and sportsmanship both on and off the field, court, track, or playing surface.

Participating in sports supports your overall well-being. Physically, sports help improve strength, endurance, coordination, and healthy lifestyles. Mentally, athletics can help reduce stress, improve focus, build confidence, and teach valuable problem-solving skills. Emotionally, sports help players develop resilience, self-control, and the ability to handle both success and setbacks in positive ways. Socially, teams create opportunities to build friendships, trust, communication skills, and a sense of belonging.

Sports also bring people together. Teammates may come from different classes, backgrounds, and experiences, but they unite around common interests, shared goals, and a commitment to supporting one another. Through teamwork and mutual respect, student-athletes learn that success is strongest when everyone contributes and encourages each other.

This agreement is designed to support these important goals and ensure that our athletic programs remain safe, positive, and inclusive for all participants. At IS 25Q, we want every Sharklete to succeed in the right way and the healthy way by demonstrating integrity, respect, responsibility, and school pride. We believe that every student-athlete has the potential to grow as a player, teammate, leader, and person, and we are committed to helping all Sharkletes achieve their best both in sports and in life.

Academic Expectations

1. A grade of 65 or more in your courses (ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies, Foreign/World Language, Talent, Technology, Physical Education) per marking period.
2. Must maintain 95% attendance.
    a. Excused absences/latenesses are allowed.
    b. Unexcused absences/latenesses may result in sitting out a game
3. Class assignments that are missed due to games must be made up.
    a. Missed assignments that are not made-up may result in partially sitting out a game.
    b. Continued missed assignments may result in sitting out a whole game or games

Behavior Expectations

IS 25Q Sharkletes do not engage in misbehaviors that are harmful, hurtful, and/or hateful to others (i.e. classmates, schoolmates, teachers, school staff, etc). All members of our school community—students, staff, and parents—must know and understand the standards of behavior to which all students are expected to live up, as well as the appropriate responses, if these standards are not met.

Student Conduct & Behavior

(aligned to NYCPS Citywide Behavioral Expectations to Support Student Learning Grades for 6–12)

As per the New York City Public Schools Citywide Behavioral Expectations to Support Student Learning for Grades 6–12, *"The manner in which students conduct themselves in school is a major factor in establishing and maintaining a safe and respectful school community. To promote positive student behavior, all members of the school community—students, staff, and parents—must know and understand the standards of behavior that all students are expected to live up to, the supports and interventions that will be used to address misconduct, and the disciplinary responses if behavioral standards are not met."*

A summary of the NYCPS behavioral expectations can be reviewed below:

- Attendance issues (unexcused absences, lateness, cutting class)
- Dress code
- Being in the wrong place without permission
- Disrupting learning (excessive noise, off-task behavior)
- Being disrespectful to students or staff
- Misusing school technology or equipment
- Bringing prohibited items to school
- Not carrying or showing school ID when asked
- Distributing materials without permission
- Possessing or using vapes, tobacco products, lighters, or matches

- Gambling
- Using inappropriate language, gestures, or behavior
- Lying to staff or providing false information
- Misusing, damaging, or interfering with another person's property
- Misbehavior on school transportation
- Recording others without permission
- Leaving class or school grounds without permission
- Refusing to follow directions from school staff
- Entering school without authorization or bringing unauthorized visitors
- Using slurs, hate speech, or discriminatory language
- Physical confrontations such as pushing, shoving, spitting, or throwing objects
- Gang-related behavior, symbols, or graffiti
- Vandalism or intentional property damage
- Taking property that does not belong to you
- Misusing school technology, networks, or internet systems
- Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, copying work)
- Posting or sharing false or harmful information about others
- Sexual harassment or inappropriate sexual conduct
- Bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, or threats
- Physical fighting that causes injury
- Possessing or using drugs, alcohol, or drug-related items
- Pulling false alarms or making false emergency threats
- Theft of significant property
- Creating dangerous situations that could harm others
- Possessing imitation weapons or weapon-like objects
- Being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school
- Arson
- Robbery, extortion, or taking property by force
- Serious assault or causing severe injury
- Group or gang-related violence
- Sexual assault or forced sexual activity
- Selling or distributing drugs or alcohol
- Possessing, selling, or using weapons
- Threatening or harming others with a weapon
- Bringing weapons to school

Engaging in the behaviors outlined above may result in:

1. Sitting out 1 or multiple games
    a. *This will be reviewed by the team coach, school counselor, and grade level administrator.*

2. Removal from the team (per team season or per semester)
    a. *This will be reviewed by the school principal, grade level assistant principal, school counselors, deans, the athletic coordinator, team's coach, and class teachers.*

3. Risk of not being able to participate in this school year's athletics.
    a. *This will be reviewed by the school principal, grade level assistant principal, school counselors, deans, the athletic coordinator, team's coach, and class teachers.*

Practice Expectations

1. Team members/players must attend all practices.
2. Excused from practices will be based on:
    a. Excused absences/latenesses
3. Missed practices due to unexcused absences or leaving at 2:30pm without notifying the coach may result in sitting out a game or games.
    a. Missing more than 50% of team practices (due to unexcused absences or not attending practice without notice) may result in removal from the team

Sportsmanship Expectations

Respect Officials: Accept referee and umpire decisions without arguing, complaining, or showing open frustration. Recognize that officials are human and make impartial judgments.

Play by the Rules: Follow the established rules of the game rather than looking for ways to cheat or cut corners. Integrity matters more than a win-at-all-cost mindset.

Support Teammates: Offer positive encouragement to peers, especially when they make a mistake or miss a play. Avoid criticism, trash talk, or putting down a teammate.

Respect Opponents: Treat the opposing team with dignity. Avoid taunting, bullying, or aggressive trash talk, and recognize good plays made by the other side.

Win with Humility and Lose with Grace: Avoid excessive bragging or rubbing a victory in the opponent's face. When defeated, accept the loss calmly, acknowledge the winner's effort, and shake hands.

Maintain Self-Control: Keep your temper in check during heated moments. Avoid crude language, temper tantrums, or aggressive physical actions.

Sharklete's Agreement

I _____ , of class _____, agree to these expectations and understand my responsibilities as a Sharklete and student of the IS 25Q School Community.

Sharklete's Signature: _____

Parent / Guardian Support

With your signature below, IS 25Q hopes to have your acknowledgement of this agreement and its expectations as well as your support in helping us to provide a fun, welcoming, respectful, and inclusive athletic experiences for all students.

Parent / Guardian Name: _____

Parent / Guardian Signature: _____

Please note that this agreement is annual and for all teams students join or may potentially join.