The South Carolina Independent School Association Warning of Inherent Risk

Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege. Student-athletes and parents/guardians must acknowledge the risks associated with athletic participation and agree to the responsibilities outlined below before participating in any practice, tryout, conditioning session, or contest.

1. Warning of Inherent Risk

Participation in interscholastic athletics involves inherent risks of injury. Even with proper coaching, equipment, and supervision, injuries may occur. These risks may include, but are not limited to:

- minor injuries such as sprains, strains, and bruises
- serious injuries including fractures, ligament damage, and internal injuries
- head injuries or concussions
- catastrophic injuries such as paralysis
- in rare cases, permanent disability or death

No amount of instruction, supervision, or protective equipment can completely eliminate the risk of injury associated with athletic participation. By choosing to participate, the student-athlete and parent/guardian acknowledge and accept these inherent risks.

2. Student-Athlete Responsibilities

By signing this form, the student-athlete agrees to:

1. Follow all rules, policies, and instructions of the school, coaches, athletic trainers, and the Association.
2. Participate in a safe and responsible manner and respect the safety of teammates and opponents.
3. **Immediately report all injuries, illnesses, or symptoms** (including concussion symptoms) to a coach, athletic trainer, or school official.
4. **Report any unsafe conditions or defective equipment** to a coach or school official and discontinue use until corrected.
5. Use athletic equipment properly and maintain equipment issued by the school.
6. Follow all return-to-play requirements following injury or illness.
7. Maintain good sportsmanship and conduct consistent with school and Association policies.

Failure to follow safety rules or to report injuries or unsafe equipment may increase the risk of injury to the student-athlete and others.

3. Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

By signing this form, the parent/guardian acknowledges and agrees to:

1. Understand that athletic participation involves inherent risks.
2. Encourage the student-athlete to report injuries, symptoms, or equipment concerns immediately.
3. Monitor the student-athlete for signs or symptoms of injury, illness, or concussion and seek appropriate medical attention when necessary.
4. Ensure that the student-athlete follows all medical instructions and return-to-play requirements.
5. Provide accurate medical history information and notify the school of any relevant health conditions.
6. Maintain medical insurance coverage for the student-athlete or accept financial responsibility for medical expenses resulting from participation.

4. Assumption of Risk

The student-athlete and parent/guardian understand that participation in interscholastic athletics is voluntary and involves inherent risks. By signing this document, the student-athlete and parent/guardian **voluntarily assume all risks associated with participation in interscholastic athletics**, including those arising from the ordinary conduct of athletic activities.

5. Release and Waiver of Liability

To the fullest extent permitted by law, the student-athlete and parent/guardian release and hold harmless: SCISA, its member schools; school districts or governing bodies, coaches, athletic directors, officials, employees, volunteers, and agents, from claims or liabilities arising from participation in interscholastic athletics, except where prohibited by law.

6. Medical Authorization

In the event of injury, illness, or emergency during athletic participation, the parent/guardian authorizes school personnel, coaches, or medical staff to: provide emergency care; arrange transportation to a medical facility if necessary; communicate relevant medical information to healthcare providers, Reasonable efforts will be made to contact the parent/guardian prior to treatment when possible.

7. Acknowledgment and Consent

By signing below, we acknowledge that: We have read and understand this **Warning of Inherent Risk and Participation Agreement**. We understand the risks associated with athletic participation. We agree to the responsibilities described above. We voluntarily consent to the student-athlete's participation in interscholastic athletics.

_____	_____	_____
Parent / Legal Guardian Signature	Student's Signature	Date