



Home of the Bubblers

Athletics Handbook

For Student-Athletes, Parents/ Guardians, and Athletic Personnel

Updates November 2023

Full Review Scheduled July 2024

Introduction

This handbook provides guidelines and the expectations of prospective student-athletes, parent/guardians, athletic coaches and staff, and constituents of South Middleton School District's Interscholastic Athletics Programs. Prospective student-athletes, parent/guardians, and athletic coaches should review the content carefully and reference SMSD board policies and the SMSD Student Handbook. Upon reviewing, prospective student-athletes, their parents/guardians, and athletic coaches will be required to submit a signed agreement. A copy of the signed agreement will be kept on file for the current fiscal year for each interscholastic athletic program that the prospective student-athlete intends to participate in.

South Middleton School District's Interscholastic Athletics Programs, provided for 7th – 12th grade students, follows guidelines and policies set forth through our membership in the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA), PIAA District III, and the Mid Penn Conference. Prospective student-athletes, parents/guardians, and athletic coaches and staff are required to adhere to the obligations outlined in all memberships.

Philosophy

The South Middleton School District Board of Directors recognizes that the primary purpose of its schools is to provide every student with a quality education that prepares the student for the future. It also recognizes the importance of interscholastic athletics, co-curricular, and extra-curricular activities in the life of the schools and in the lives of students. These activities can help to develop important characteristics such as teamwork, discipline, self-sacrifice, and leadership. While activities can be a complement to the educational process, they are secondary to the district's main purpose. Teachers, students, parents, and administrators must strive to keep the focus clearly on the education of the students. A quality education is the right of every student in the district. Interscholastic athletics, co-curricular and extracurricular activities are a privilege that grows out of an educational experience. The South Middleton School District will maintain the proper priority of education first and foremost.

Interscholastic athletics are often in the public eye and therefore require conduct that meets high standards. There is an obligation to project a positive image to properly represent the district. Adherence to the guidelines established in the South Middleton Student Handbook along with board policies of this district is required of any participant seeking participation in an interscholastic athletic program. The school district adheres to all of the regulations set forth by the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) as listed in their constitution and by-laws. Regulations stated in district policies will determine a student's eligibility in interscholastic, co-curricular and extracurricular activities for South Middleton School District.

Scope of Interscholastic Athletics Conduct

To ensure consistent enforcement as outlined in the South Middleton Student Handbook, the scope of interscholastic athletics conduct applies to all students participating in interscholastic athletics, co-curricular and extracurricular activities enrolled in grades 7th through 12th. The term of these procedures applies throughout the year to conduct occurring on or off school property. Each interscholastic athletics programs coaching staff will establish rules for their athletic programs, outlining the expectations and requirements to be considered for participation. Athletic coaches will review athletic team rules at the start of the season at a required parents/ guardians and prospective student-athlete meeting.

Prospective student-athletes will be required to comply with the guidelines stated in this Athletic Handbook, South Middleton Student Handbook, SMSD board policies, starting with their 7th grade year and continuing until their 12th grade year. The penalties imposed against a prospective student-athlete for violation and/ or infractions will be enforced beginning with the day that an administrative decision is made. A prospective student-athlete will be allowed to sign up for an interscholastic athletics program, co-curricular and/or extracurricular activity during a period of suspension, however, will not be able to participate until the suspension has been served in full. If "cuts" have been made in the activity prior to the prospective student-athletes reinstatement date, participation in that activity will be restricted until the next offering unless otherwise determined by the administration.

Athletic Required Forms

Prospective student-athletes who submit their completed forms the day before practice starts or later will be required to observe one full day of practice before being cleared for participation. Submission of forms by the required deadlines is critical to ensure eligibility at the start of the practices. Contact the high school main office with any questions, requesting to speak with the Athletics Administrative Assistant. If a prospective student-athlete and/ or their parents/ guardians needs an Athletic Participation Form, they are available at the high school main office.

Please follow the directions below for completing the Athletic Forms:

1. Print forms from the school athletic website at www.boilingspringsathletics.org under the Athletic Forms tab. Click on the Athletics Preparticipation Forms if this is the first sport season of the school year and/or the first time the prospective student-athlete is seeking participation in an interscholastic athletic program for the fiscal year. Click on the Bubblers Athletics Recertification Form if the prospective student-athlete is seeking participation for another interscholastic athletic team of the same fiscal year. The Bubblers Athletics Recertification Form must be completed if you are participating in a second or third sport for the current school year **no earlier** than six weeks before the start of the season.
2. **A Pennsylvania practitioner must authorize Section 7 of these forms.** A standard physical form will not be accepted without a signed and completed Section 7. Any athlete with a pre-existing injury/illness and expecting to be cleared to participate at a later date, must turn in his or her pre-participation forms by the due date with the stipulation to participate pending written documentation from the attending physician for that particular illness/injury.

If you cannot get Section 7 signed by your family physician with a current date before the due date, you can check-in with one of the following walk-in clinics:

UPMC Urgent Care, 1175 Walnut Bottom Road, Carlisle 717-258-9355
Penn State Health Carlisle Outpatient Center Urgent Care, 1211 Forge Road, Carlisle 717-218-3990
Concentra Urgent Care, 1124 Harrisburg Pike, Carlisle 717-245-2411

3. Remember to take any other pertinent paperwork to your doctor's appointment such as work and/or driver's permit papers with you. This form will be submitted to the school nurse for your eleventh grade physical if requested. **General physical forms cannot be accepted for athletics. Section 7 of the PIAA forms must be signed and have current date by the medical provider.**
4. Copy any forms you may need for summer camps, lost paperwork, etc., prior to submitting to the office. (In particular, **Section 7 should be copied for your records.** Lost forms are not the responsibility of the school).
5. Submit only the completed pages to the HS office by the deadline dates below. Do not submit to your coach or anyone else. If your packet contains missing information, you will not be allowed to participate until the information is provided. This will result in not being allowed to participate and potentially being cut from the team if tryouts are held. All athletes must have medical insurance coverage to participate and listed on the forms.

Fall season preparticipation forms are due 7 business days prior to the start of the fall season (July 24– Golf/ Football, July 31– all other Fall sports)

Winter season preparticipation or recertification forms are due 7 business days prior to the start of the winter season (Nov 8, 2023)

Spring season preparticipation or recertification forms are due 7 business days prior to the start of the spring season (Feb 28, 2024)

Additional Information

- The preparticipation forms will require a re-examination by a physician if the athletic trainer has not received **written clearance** from an attending physician for any illness or injury that precipitates a physician's consultation.
- Subsequent sports will require recertification forms to be completed within six weeks of the start of the winter and spring seasons. Recertification forms will be provided online at www.boilingspringsathletics.org under the Athletic Forms tab.

Interscholastic Athletics by Season

Fall:	Cheerleading (Varsity) Cheerleading (Junior High) Cross Country (Boys and Girls Varsity) Cross Country (Boys and Girls Junior High) Field Hockey (Girls Varsity & JV) Field Hockey (Girls Junior High) Football (Varsity & JV) Golf (Boys and Girls Varsity) Soccer (Girls Varsity & JV) Soccer (Boys Varsity & JV) Volleyball (Girls Varsity & JV)
Winter:	Bocce (Allied Sport) Basketball (Boys Varsity & JV) Basketball (Boys Junior High) Basketball (Girls Varsity & JV) Basketball (Girls Junior High) Cheerleading (Varsity) Cheerleading (Junior High) Swimming/Diving (Boys and Girls Varsity) Wrestling (Boys Varsity & JV) Wrestling (Boys Junior High) Wrestling (Girls Varsity & JV) Wrestling (Girls Junior High)
Spring:	Baseball (Boys Varsity & JV) Soccer (Boys Junior High) Soccer (Girls Junior High) Softball (Girls Varsity & JV) Track (Boys and Girls Varsity) Track (Boys and Girls Junior High) Volleyball (Girls Junior High) Tennis Coop with Red Land (Boys Varsity) - 2022 - 2024

Academic Performance

Academic eligibility will be monitored throughout the interscholastic athletic competition seasons of all participating student-athletes at the high school and junior high level. Reports will be generated on a weekly basis to review academic performance of the student-athletes of each interscholastic athletics team. The purpose of the reports is to ensure that student-athletes are reaching a 70% (passing) in their classes. If a student-athlete falls below a 70% in a class, athletic coaches and the specific faculty member will be notified. Administration will seek additional information regarding the student-athletes academic performance and work in collaboration with faculty and the athletic coaches to determine steps to support academic performances of the student-athlete. Athletic coaches serve as a mentoring partner and as such, will be directly involved in communicating with the student-athletes and if needed, parents/guardians, when there are academic performance concerns. Performance in the classroom, which includes completion of assignments, tests/ quiz results, and classroom behavior are an integral part of a student-athletes academic performance.

A student-athlete who has populated below a 70% at the conclusion of the reviewal period will meet with the Athletic Director and/ or Principal or Assistant Principal. The student-athlete will be informed of their ineligibility period and provided with written notification. Reconsideration for reinstatement will take place 1-week following the ineligible period.

To be eligible for interscholastic athletics, a prospective student-athlete at the high school level must have passed at least three full-credit subjects during the previous grading period. If three full-credit subjects have not been passed, the prospective student-athlete will be ineligible for a period of (20) school days, which will begin immediately after the determination.

At the middle school level, prospective student-athletes must have passed the equivalent of six subjects during the previous grading period. If the six subjects have not been passed, the student will be ineligible for a period of (20) days, which will begin immediately after the determination.

All other PIAA regulations concerning academic eligibility will govern Boiling Springs High School and the Yellow Breeches Middle School prospective student-athletes.

Prospective student-athletes who are declared ineligible will be excluded from practicing, traveling, or participating with the interscholastic athletic team during the period of their ineligibility.

If a prospective student-athlete is failing a subject and has no opportunity to be assessed during a period of ineligibility, prospective student-athletes can be reinstated on the determination of administration provided consultation has taken place between faculty, administration, athletic staff, the student, and parent/ guardians as applicable.

Attendance Requirements

Prospective student-athletes, parents/ guardians, and athletic coaches and staff should review and refer to the Attendance Policies (pgs. 3 – 16) located in the SMSD Student Handbook. For the purpose of interscholastic athletics participation in a practice and/ or game, student-athletes must be present at school by 11:00 AM unless the absence is pre-approved by the administration. Students who are not present by 11:00 AM with pre-approval by the administration may be allowed to participate with proper documentation (example –medical note, military testing, and college visitation).

Failure to report by 11:00 AM without pre-approval by the administration will result in a warning. The second offense will result in the student being ineligible to practice or participate in practice and/ or a game for that day. Students who are recorded as absent for a full day of school will be prohibited from participating in interscholastic athletics, co-curricular or extra-curricular activities on that day.

Prospective student-athletes who are residents of the district and enrolled in charter, cyber charter schools or home-schooling can be considered for participation in interscholastic athletics activities that occur outside the normal school day. Prospective student-athletes and their parents/guardians who wish to participate must complete the required Athletics Preparticipation Forms and are required to submit the name of the program they are using, along with a contact name and telephone number or e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the charter, cyber charter school and the supervisor of the home-schooling program to notify the attendance officer of each building by 1:00 p.m. of any student's absence.

Student-athletes who are enrolled in charter, cyber charter, are expected to travel to and from athletic contests with the team, unless permission has been granted. Transportation to and from practices, to the school to meet departure times for contests, from the school following a contest, will be the responsibility of the parents/guardians.

A student-athlete who is absent on the last day of a school week, who has not received prior administrative approval as stated above for their absence, must request permission first with their athletic coach if they plan to attend a contest the following day (i.e. Saturday). The head coach will consult with administration to determine eligibility of the student-athlete to attend the contest.

A student who is suspended (in-school or out-of-school) or expelled from school for any infraction may not attend or participate in interscholastic athletics practices, scrimmages, contests, or organized team activities for the duration of the suspension or expulsion.

Per PIAA Bylaws Article III a student-athlete who has been “absent from school during a semester for a total of twenty (20) or more school days, is ineligible to participate in an inter-school practice, scrimmage, or contest until the student has been in attendance for a total of (45) school days following the student's (20th) day of absence.”

Attendance in Team Activities

Student-athletes in interscholastic athletics, co-curricular and extracurricular activities are expected to attend all required in-season and post-season practices, team meetings, and contests that are included with the activity.

An unexcused absence is the missing of a scheduled practice without providing prior communication and notice to the athletic programs head coach and/ or extracurricular, co-curricular advisor. Athletic coaches and advisors will provide the acceptable methods for providing this notice:

- The first unexcused absence will result in the participant having to sit out for the first “half” of the next contest or performance.
- The second unexcused absence will result in the participant being restricted from participation in an entire contest or performance.
- The third unexcused absence will result in the participant being removed from the team or activity.

Participants who miss a contest or performance without prior notification and approval from the head coach or advisor will be required to meet with the coach/advisor and a school administrator to determine the participant’s ability to remain in the activity. Participants should not schedule outside activities that would conflict with scheduled activities. Practice, game schedules, and/ or performances will be provided to participants by the head coaches and/ or advisors.

Participants are expected to be prepared and ready to participate at the time scheduled by the coach or advisor. Prospective student-athletes requiring attention from an athletic trainer should plan to see the athletic trainer prior to the scheduled start time of a practice and/ or pregame warmup. Prospective student-athletes must communicate with their head coaches and/ or advisors if they will be seeking to be seen by an athletic trainer which could result in arriving late to a practice or pregame warmup.

Participants who are late for practice, game or performance will be assigned appropriate consequences by the head coach/advisor as outlined in the athletic team rules and/ or activity. Please note the following procedures set forth through this Athletic Handbook:

- Three times late to practice is considered an unexcused absence.
- Exceptions will be made for participants who were getting additional academic help and who provide a written pass from a teacher that includes the date and time that the participant left the classroom.
- Whenever possible, prior notification should be given to the coach or advisor and/ or administration.
- Excused absences may result in a reduction in playing time if, in the head coach’s opinion, the absence has impacted the player’s preparedness for the contest.
- Repeated attendance problems will result in a participant being removed from the activity.

Authority of Student Suspension and/ or Expulsion

The high school/middle school principal shall have full authority to institute procedures on in-school and out-of-school suspension and/ or expulsion. Notification of a student’s suspension will be made to the head coach, advisor, and athletic director. The athletic director and the respective head coach may be involved in the notification of action with the student. Parent(s) will be notified, by either mail and/ or personal contact, of the action and its rationale.

Awards

Coaches determine the requirements for the following awards at Boiling Springs High School/Yellow Breeches Middle School:

Varsity Teams

Letter (one per entire high school career)
 Sport pin
 Captain pin (complete the NFHS Captain’s course)
 Varsity certificate
 3.25 Scholar Athlete Certificate

JV Teams

Participant certificate
 3.25 Scholar Athlete Certificate

Junior High Teams

Coach determination

To receive a letter an individual must be eligible for the entire season including tournaments, districts, league, and states regardless of if the athlete does not qualify for these additional contests, meets or playoff games. These additional events are considered part of the regular season, and they must remain academically eligible to receive any team or individual awards.

Behavior

Participants in interscholastic athletics, extracurricular and co-curricular activities are expected to set the example of appropriate behavior, in-school and during out-of-school participation in school sponsored activities. All behavioral expectations in-school apply to interscholastic athletics, extracurricular, and co-curricular activities. Behavioral concerns that occur, in-school and/ or during out-of-school school sponsored activities, when necessary, will be shared with athletic coaches, staff and/ or advisors. Prospective student-athletes not meeting behavioral expectations in-school and/ or out-of-school during school sponsored activities could result in participation eligibility restrictions for interscholastic athletics, extracurricular and/ or co-curricular activities. Meetings between a student-athlete and their head coach and/ or advisors regarding behavioral expectations is permissible and expected. Administration may provide information regarding a behavioral concern of a student to a head coach and/ or advisor and any directives that may impact the students' eligibility for participation.

Athletic coaches, staff and advisors are responsible to monitor behaviors of students during out-of-school participation in school sponsored activities, this would include but not limited to; practices, contests, team travel, overnight trips, field trips, use of locker rooms and weight rooms, etc. Athletic coaches, staff and/ or advisors are expected to address inappropriate behaviors immediately and directly with the student(s).

If a student-athlete has been provided 2 warnings, the athletic coach, staff and/ or advisor shall inform the parents/guardians and administration that the student has been warned on two occasions of their behavioral conduct. If a student-athlete has been warned on 2 occasions and the behavior continues, the following process will be initiated by the athletic coach, staff and/ or advisor:

- The head coach and/ or advisor will set up a formal meeting with the student-athlete to discuss their behavior(s). Discipline for repeated behavioral infractions could include: restricted participation, suspension, and/ or removal from the activity.
- The head coach and/ or advisor will inform the parents/guardians of the meeting required of the student.
- The parents/guardians will be invited to the meeting.
- The head coach will provide a written summary to administration (Athletic Director, Principal/ Assistant Principal).

Athletic coaches, staff and/ or advisors who become aware of Bullying/ Cyberbullying, Drug and/ or Alcohol Use, and Hazing occurring in-school and/or out-of-school by participants of interscholastic athletics, extracurricular and/ or co-curricular activities are required to provide a report (verbally and written) to administration (Athletic Director, Principal, Assistant Principal).

Bullying/Cyberbullying

SMSD Board Policy 249 defines bullying as: "an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act or series of acts directed at another student or students, which occurs in a school setting, and/or outside a school setting, that is severe, persistent or pervasive and has the effect of doing any of the following:

- Substantially interfering with a student's education.
- Creating a threatening environment.
- Substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Bullying, as defined in this policy, includes cyberbullying."

Reflective of Board Policy 249, consequences for violation could result in disciplinary action consistent with the Code of Student Conduct which may include:

- Counseling within the school
- Parental conference.
- Loss of school privileges (to include interscholastic athletics, extracurricular, and/ or co-curricular participation)
- Transfer to another school building, classroom, or school bus.
- Exclusion from school-sponsored activities.
- Detention.
- Suspension.
- Expulsion.
- Counseling/ Therapy outside of school.
- Referral to law enforcement officials.

Chain of Command when Expressing Concerns

At South Middleton School District, the following chain of command is in effect:

First: Student-Athlete/ Parent requests to meet with the Head Coach and/ or Advisor

Second: Student-Athlete/ Parent can request a meeting with the Athletic Director

Third: Student-Athlete/ Parent can request a meeting with the Principal

Fourth: Student-Athlete/ Parent can request a meeting with the Superintendent

If there are any questions or concerns involving a student-athletes role within an athletics program, student-athletes should contact the head coach and/ or an assistant coach. Parents/guardians are required to follow the chain of command when there is a concern regarding their student-athletes participation.

Keep in mind the following items prior to setting up a meeting:

1. Never approach a coach immediately after a contest. This is not the proper time or place for a discussion concerning your student-athlete.
2. Call the following day to make an appointment which is convenient for you, your student-athlete and the coach.
3. Raise your concern in a calm and civil manner. It is not acceptable for any parties (athletic coach, parents/guardians, or the student-athlete) to yell or use inappropriate language.
4. Once you have stated your question or concern, listen to the explanation. Listening receptively may help you understand.
5. You and/ or your student-athlete may not agree with the explanation and/ or determinations made. The role of the athletic coaches, staff, and/ or advisors is to make decisions that they feel are in the best interest of the entire interscholastic athletics team and/ or extracurricular and/ or co-curricular activity.
6. Athletic coaches, staff and/ or advisors will not speak with parents/guardians about other student-athletes participation, roles, and/ or playing time.
7. Role assignments, position selection, team strategy, and the philosophy of execution is determined by the athletic coaches.

Concussion Testing

Baseline testing is a neurocognitive test designed to assist in post-concussion whether an athlete is sufficiently recovered from a concussion to return to active participation. Baseline testing involves an athlete taking a test in various areas of cognitive performance prior to the start of a sport season to establish a "baseline" of cognitive skills. If a player suffers a concussion, subsequent baseline tests are administered and compared to the original baseline test. Neurocognitive testing provides a tool that can be used in conjunction with other tools or assessment techniques to determine when an athlete can safely return to play following a concussion.

School athletic department personnel will assist a designated health care vendor in administering the test. This non-invasive test is set up in "videogame" type format and takes about 45 minutes to complete. The test is administered online with no cost to parents. The neurocognitive test tracks information such as memory, reaction time, speed, and concentration.

If a concussion is suspected, the student-athlete will have the opportunity to take the post-concussion test. Both the preseason and post-injury test data may be given to the healthcare provider of your choice. The test data will potentially assist health professionals to determine when return-to-play is appropriate and safe. A health care professional does not have to use neurocognitive baseline testing results as a condition for a player returning to competition.

Interscholastic Athletics, Extracurricular, Co-Curricular Activities (Multiple)

Being a small public school has definite advantages and disadvantages. Students in the South Middleton School District are able to participate in many different activities. This allows them to experience many things during their school careers but can also lead to an overwhelming schedule as some students attempt to "do it all". The South Middleton School District encourages its students to take advantage of all of their opportunities at school. For many, it will be the last chance that they will have to participate in some of these activities.

To help protect the students from over-committing themselves, the following guidelines are provided:

- Students who are involved in an interscholastic athletics program that is in-season, are to refrain from participating in out-of-season workouts for another athletics program without agreement among the coaching staff of both programs. An exception will be made for participation in league associated all-star games and league associated recognition activities.
- It is expected that athletics coaches and staff will work with prospective student-athletes to support balance and mitigate pressures that may be felt by the prospective student-athlete to be involved in multiple activities during the same time.
- Student-athletes participating on an interscholastic athletics team that qualifies for the postseason and who also intends to participate in a sport the following season are exempt from participation in the second sport for up to three calendar days following the final contest of the postseason.
- It is expected that students involved in a school program will put that program before any out-of-school program. Absences due to attendance at an out-of-school activity, including any type of employment, must be approved by the head coach prior to the absence.
- An absence from a contest or performance due to attendance at an out-of-school activity will be counted as an unexcused absence unless pre-approval was received. If the absence was not pre-approved, the student may be required to meet with the head coach and an administrator to discuss the student's future with the program.

Interscholastic Athletics, Co-Curricular and/or Extracurricular Activities during the Same Season (Multiple)

A student may participate in more than one co-curricular and/or extracurricular activity during the same season as long as the coaches/advisors agree to such participation. This includes sports with music, drama and/or other school activities or any combination of these activities. Activities that have the same practice and/or contest schedule will not work for this type of arrangement.

Regardless of which activity is listed as the "prime" activity, contests and performances will take precedence over practices or rehearsals unless prior permission is given by the coach/advisor of the activity that is having the contest or performance and the administration agrees.

Criminal Violations

The students are expected to abide by all local, state and federal laws and regulations. If the school district receives verified information that a student engaged in criminal conduct (school or non-school) as defined by the Pennsylvania Crimes Code or a similar state or federal statute, the student shall be subject to the disciplinary penalties for violation of this Code of Conduct.

Consequences for Conduct Violations

In cases of allegations of infractions, the following procedures will be followed:

Investigation -The athletics coach, staff, and/ or advisor and/ or shall report all alleged violations of the Code of Conduct to administration (Principal, Assistant Principal, Athletic Director), who in turn shall decide a course of action on the alleged conduct. This may include an investigation, conversation, or suspension from activities depending on the severity of the claims.

Meeting -If, after completion of the investigation, a determination is made that a violation of the Code of Conduct has occurred, the principal, together with the coach, supervisor, or athletic director shall schedule a meeting with the student and student's parents/guardians at which time the student will be afforded the opportunity to be heard. While the meeting above is referenced in relation to responding to the findings of an investigation, parents do not need to be present in order for any staff member to gather information as part of the investigatory stage.

Suspension/Expulsion -If, at the conclusion of the meeting, a determination is made that disciplinary action is required, the principal may, in his/her sole discretion, impose a suspension or prohibition from attending and participating in all athletic, co-curricular, extracurricular activities and revoke student parking privileges, as set forth below. For high school students this includes prom and senior night. The principal's decision shall be final and binding.

First Offense-A (60) day suspension from the date the decision is made to suspend from attending and participating in all athletic, co-curricular, extracurricular activities and have their parking privileges revoked. If the student develops and follows an intervention plan approved by the principal and based on the recommendations of the principal, parents, counselor, coach/advisor and/or Student Assistance Team, the (60) day suspension may be reduced to a (30) day suspension and (30) day probation period. The student may participate in athletics, co-curricular, extracurricular activities and have parking privileges restored while on probation as long as they continue to follow the intervention plan.

Second Offense -The student shall be prohibited from attending and participating in interscholastic athletics, co-curricular, extracurricular activities and have their parking privileges revoked for a minimum of one (365 days) from the date the decision is made to suspend. For high school students this includes prom and senior night. An intervention plan approved by the principal and based on the recommendations of the principal, parents, counselor, coach/advisor and/or Student Assistance Team, shall be developed for the student. Progress toward meeting the intervention plans goals shall be reviewed prior to privileges being reinstated.

Third Offense -The student shall be prohibited from attending and participating in interscholastic athletics, co-curricular, extracurricular activities and their parking privileges shall be revoked for the remainder of their education in the South Middleton School District. The student also shall be prohibited from being on school district property or vehicles owned or leased by the district outside school hours for three years from the date the decision is made to suspend. If the student no longer attends the South Middleton School District, the student shall not trespass on school district property or vehicles owned or leased by the district at any time three years from the date the decision is made to suspend except with prior written permission from the administration.

Drugs, Tobacco/ Smokeless Tobacco Use (sited directly from SMSD Student Handbook pgs. 21-23)

Drug Awareness Policy (SMSD Student Handbook pg. 21-23)

Purpose-The Board recognizes that the misuse of drugs and alcohol is a serious problem with legal, physical and social implications for the whole community. As the educational institution of this district, the schools should strive to prevent drug abuse. For the health and safety of our students, the Board prohibits the use, possession, or distribution of any drug, legal or illegal. If students must take prescription or non-prescription medications during school hours, they must be distributed by the school nurse.

Definition-For purposes of this policy, "drugs" shall mean: all dangerous controlled substances prohibited by law; any prescription or patent drug, except those for which permission to use in school has been granted pursuant to Board policy. The policy of the South Middleton School District prohibits any student to possess, to use, to sell, to deliver, or to give to another person, or to have consumed any narcotic, dangerous drug, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, or any pill, capsule, powder, liquid, inhalant, facsimile, drug paraphernalia, or other substance of whatever form or texture (including lookalikes), which may adversely affect the health, safety, or welfare of any student, including but not limited to stimulants or depressants, prior to or during 21 participation in a school activity. The above policy is also in effect when any violations occur on any property owned or leased by the South Middleton School District or while participating in a district authorized activity, although not physically occurring on district property. Any student who violates the above stated policy shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the procedure hereinafter provided.

Confidentiality-The privileged confidentiality between students and guidance counselors, the Student Assistance Team, school nurses, school psychologists, home and school visitors, administrators, teachers, and clerical workers shall be respected, and no confidential communication made to any such employee shall be required to be revealed without the consent of the student or his/her parent, unless the best interests of the student can be served only by doing so.

Drug and Alcohol Prevention and Abuse-Drug prevention programs should be designed to reach underlying causes of behavior by attempting to improve the potential drug user's emotional environment, self-image, family life and drug information. The Board of School Directors, under the direction of the Superintendent, promotes drug and alcohol awareness for counselors, parents/guardians, and teachers working with students. Students who have become involved to any degree in drugs or alcohol of any nature outside the confines of school property may present themselves to any certified counselor, school nurse, or psychologist. These students will not be subjected to any school discipline for their misuse of drugs or alcohol. A student requesting help will have no record of his request

placed in his personal file. Periodically, the principal will be kept aware of the progress of the program. In the high school, a variety of courses include information necessary to meet these purposes. In addition, a variety of resources are at the student's disposal. These resources are managed by the guidance counselors, school nurse, and Student Assistance Team. Students are encouraged to seek these resources if necessary.

Violation of District Drug Policy-If a school official, which shall include a building principal, assistant building principal, or any other person designated by the Board of School Directors to enforce this policy, shall have reasonable and probable cause or evidence to believe that a student has violated this policy, he/she shall:

1. Schedule a preliminary hearing on the alleged violation, which hearing will be held as soon as practical upon the conclusion of the investigation of the alleged violation. The building principal shall be the presiding officer at such hearing. The student accused of violating such policy shall be present at the hearing, together with his/her parents/guardians, at which hearing the building principal shall receive, hear, and evaluate all relevant evidence.
2. As a result of such preliminary hearing, the building principal may make any of the following determinations:
 - a. Dismiss the charge of the alleged violation and continue or reinstate the student in school.
 - b. Suspend the student for disciplinary reason.
 - c. Refer the alleged violation to the Superintendent for a hearing by the Superintendent or Board of School Directors. 22
 - d. Direct or recommend the filing of appropriate report or charges with the juvenile authorities of the Cumberland County Probation Office.
3. If the hearing is held by the Superintendent, he shall schedule a hearing as soon as practical. The Superintendent shall be the presiding officer at such a hearing. The student accused of violating such policy shall be present at the hearing, together with his/her parents/guardians, at which hearing the Superintendent shall receive, hear, and evaluate all relevant evidence.
4. As a result of such hearing, the Superintendent may make any of the following determinations:
 - a. Dismiss the charge of the alleged violation and continue or reinstate the student in school.
 - b. Suspend the student for disciplinary reasons.
 - c. Suspend the student indefinitely pending action by the Board of School Directors pursuant to Section 1318 of the Public-School Code of 1949 and refer the matter to the Board of School Directors for such action.
 - d. Direct or recommend the filing of appropriate report or charges with the juvenile authorities of the Cumberland County Probation Office.
 - e. If the Superintendent shall refer the matter to the Board of School Directors, said Board or a committee thereof, shall conduct a hearing pursuant to Section 1318 of the Public-School Code of 1949, which is quoted as follows: "Every principal or teacher in charge of a public school may temporarily suspend any pupil on account of disobedience shall promptly notify the district Superintendent. The Board may, after a proper hearing, suspend such child for such time as it may determine, or may permanently expel him. Such hearing, suspension, or expulsion may be delegated to a duly authorized committee of the Board."
5. If each student is readmitted to school, he/she shall enter upon the then prevailing counseling program to assist the student in the elimination of the causes of his/her drug-or alcohol-related problem.

SMOKING/USE OF TOBACCO POLICY (SMSD Student Handbook pg 21)

The Board of School Directors recognizes that smoking or use of tobacco products presents a health hazard which can have serious consequences for the smoker and the nonsmoker and the safety of the district and is, therefore, of concern to the Board. In order to protect students and staff from an environment that may be harmful to them, and because the Board cannot, even by indirection, condone the use of tobacco because of its possible harm to personal well-being, the Board prohibits the use of tobacco and smoking by staff members in any school building or on any school property owned or leased by the South Middleton School District. This policy covers the smoking of any tobacco product, including smokeless tobacco products, vaping products, and electronic cigarettes (regardless of tobacco content). Students are not permitted to smoke, vape, use or possess tobacco in the school buildings, on buses, in bus loading areas, or on school property. Students will not carry any form of tobacco while they are in school. Parents/Guardians of students who violate this rule will be notified by the school administration. The use or possession of tobacco or smoking in any school building, or on any school property owned or leased by the South Middleton School District is prohibited. Any person in violation of Act 145 of the School's Tobacco Controls Act shall be guilty of a summary offense, and upon conviction before the District Justice shall be punished by a fine up to \$50, plus court costs. Any first-time offender of the Districts' tobacco/vaping policy who agrees to participate in the Student Assistance Program and follows the recommendations of the outside agencies, which may include participation in a cessation program, will not have a criminal complaint filed. There will be no reduction of consequences for repeat offenders.

Apparel and Equipment Use and Care

Most uniforms and equipment are assigned to student-athletes strictly on a loan basis for the duration of the sport season. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to maintain that equipment/uniform in the same condition in which it was received. Any damage or loss of equipment/uniform will be considered the direct financial responsibility of the student athlete responsible for its care.

Any athlete withholding property from one sport is suspended from participating in any other sport until the equipment is returned. He or she is ineligible for any sport award until that equipment is returned.

Student athletes will be charged the replacement cost of any equipment or uniform not returned. This cost must be paid before participating in any other sport. Financial obligations must be settled with:

1. Coach
2. Athletic Director/Athletic Secretary
3. Business Manager

Grievance Procedure

No student shall be suspended from interscholastic athletics, co-curricular and/or extracurricular activities under the Code of Conduct until the administration has determined that the participant has violated the regulations, unless such suspension is warranted due to the severity of the incident. The following procedures apply to reports of alleged violations of the Code of Conduct:

Any reports of alleged violations of the Code of Conduct are to be made to the coach, athletic director, and principal.

The administration may investigate all reported or suspected violations of the Code of Conduct to determine their credibility.

If a report is determined to be credible, the principal and the athletic director shall meet with the student-athlete to explain the information and to allow the student to respond. The administration will ultimately decide whether or not the student-athlete violated the Code of Conduct and make determinations as such.

If the administration finds the student violated the Code of Conduct, the student's parent/guardian shall be verbally informed of the violation and the resulting consequence, and they will also be informed of the appeal process. Notice of the situation shall be provided to the appropriate coach or advisor. Written notification to the student's parent/guardian will follow-up the verbal notice.

The student and the parent/guardian then have five calendar days from the verbal notification to file a written appeal with the high school principal.

The principal will then reply to the parent/guardian within 48 hours (about 2 days) to schedule an appeal hearing. The hearing shall be run by the principal and heard by three coaches and/or advisors who are not involved in the students' activities. The original consequence shall remain in place until the appeal has been decided.

The appeal committee shall review the information provided by the athletic director and the student, to determine if the original decision was valid. The appeal committee does not determine any alternate consequences. Any appeal board recommendation shall be subject to the final approval of the building principal.

For purposes of the Code of Conduct, "verified information" means the accuracy of information is confirmed by any of the following methods:

- self-admitted involvement by the student
- student involvement witnessed by an advisor, coach, sponsor, school district employee, or other credible witness
- acknowledgment by a parent/guardian of his or her child's involvement
- an official police report given to the school
- notification of an adjudication, a delinquency finding or other admission of wrongdoing before a court

Hazing

The PIAA (pg. 49) of the Constitution and By-Laws notes the Pennsylvania Statute regarding bullying and hazing as follows: "To draw attention to the Pennsylvania Statute regarding bullying and hazing that schools are to adopt a hazing and bullying policy which includes any act committed against a student attempting to become a member of an athletic team, that is humiliating, intimidating, demeaning or endangers the health and welfare of the student. Hazing includes the student's active or passive participation in such acts and occurs regardless of the willingness to participate in these activities."

Board policy #247 on Hazing states as follows:

"The Board prohibits hazing in connection with any student activity or organization regardless of whether the conduct occurs on or off school property or outside of school hours. No student, parent/guardian, coach, sponsor, volunteer or district employee shall engage in, condone or ignore any form of hazing. The Board encourages students who believe they, or others, have been subjected to hazing to promptly report such incidents to the building principal or designee.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality of all parties, witnesses, the allegations, the filing of a complaint and the investigation shall be handled in accordance with applicable law, regulations, this policy and the district's legal and investigative obligations.

Retaliation

Reprisal or retaliation relating to reports of hazing or participation in an investigation of allegations of hazing is prohibited and shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Consequences for Violations

Safe Harbor –

An individual needing medical attention or seeking medical attention for another shall not be subject to criminal prosecution if the individual complies with the requirements under law, subject to the limitations set forth in law.

Students –

If the investigation results in a substantiated finding of hazing, the investigator shall recommend appropriate disciplinary action up to and including expulsion, as circumstances warrant, in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct. The student may also be subject to disciplinary action by the coach or sponsor, up to and including removal from the activity or organization. The fact of whether a student qualified for and received safe harbor under a criminal investigation shall be considered in assigning discipline.

Nonstudent Violators/Organizational Hazing -

If the investigation results in a substantiated finding that a coach, sponsor, or volunteer affiliated with the student activity or organization engaged in, condoned or ignored any violation of this policy, the coach, sponsor, or volunteer shall be disciplined in accordance with Board policy and applicable laws and regulations. Discipline could include, but is not limited to, dismissal from the position as coach, sponsor, or volunteer, and/or dismissal from district employment. If an organization is found to have engaged in organizational hazing, it shall be subject to the imposition of fines and other appropriate penalties. Penalties may include rescission of permission for that organization to operate on school property or to otherwise operate under the sanction or recognition of the district.

Criminal Prosecution –

Any person or organization that causes or participates in hazing may also be subject to criminal prosecution"

Participants and parents/ guardians are required to review Board Policy #247. Athletic coaches will review Board Policy #247 as part of their pre-season and in-season meetings with players, coaches, and parents/guardians. Athletic coaches will take rumors seriously, reporting to administration (Athletic Director, Principal, Assistant Principal) activities that may compromise the integrity of an individual or group of individuals. Student-athletes, if made aware of a hazing incident, are expected to report the incident immediately to an administrator and/ or athletic coach. Athletic coaches are required to report hazing incidents to administration immediately. Reports of hazing will be investigated. Failure to report a hazing incident by an athletic coach and/ or advisor of an interscholastic athletics, extracurricular and/ or co-curricular program will result in disciplinary consequences up to and including discharge of duties.

Inclement Weather Procedures

When South Middleton School District is closed due to inclement weather conditions, all after-school activities are automatically canceled unless otherwise notified by administration. These after-school activities include practices, contests, meetings, or other events. Team members should make certain to contact their coach regarding interim or adjusted practice schedules. There are times when evening practices may be permitted. If this is the case, the athletic director will notify coaches. Athletic coaches and staff and/ or advisors are responsible for distributing information regarding practice and/ or game cancellations. Athletic administrative staff will update as quickly as possible scheduling changes on the multiple website platforms that are utilized for interscholastic athletics scheduling.

Junior Varsity (JV) Team

Junior Varsity teams exist to provide those athletes who are unable to participate on the varsity squad an opportunity to develop skills and gain experience. While the athlete's age, size, or skill level may be the limiting factor in not making the varsity team, participation on a JV team may enhance the athlete's potential to make the varsity squad in the future.

Being a member of a JV team does not guarantee that an athlete will automatically move up the following year to the varsity squad. The athletes best suited for varsity competition will make the squad each year. These decisions are made by the coach of the team at their sole discretion. The athletic director nor the principal will over rule any decision made by a coach related to the makeup of their team or playing time.

Striving to win is important in athletics. However, compiling a great record or winning a championship should not be the primary objective of a JV team. The development of athletes should be the ultimate purpose of a JV squad, while at the same time acknowledging the value of winning, learning, and enjoying being a member of a team.

Lockers

Student athletic lockers are school district property. Student lockers may be searched by school or district administrators when reasonable suspicion exists that a student is concealing evidence of an illegal act, illegal substance or other violation of school rules. The school authorities may seize any illegal or unauthorized materials found during a search.

Circumstances justifying a reasonable suspicion search also authorize administration to require students to submit to a thorough search of clothing, handbags, and wallets to seize any unauthorized material. Students who do not cooperate with a reasonable suspicion search will be suspended immediately from the co-curricular and/or extracurricular program. All searches conducted by the administration shall be consistent with school district policy. Administration may inspect the content of student lockers as part of routine maintenance inspections. Students are responsible for all items in their locker and are expected to secure all valuables. The school district and its employees are not responsible for items that are lost or stolen from a locker. Students are advised to keep their lockers locked whenever they are not in direct supervision of the locker and to not share the combination of their locker with any other student. Students are also advised not to keep valuables in the lockers, but to give them to their coach or advisor for supervision.

NCAA

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), an organization founded in 1906 which has established rules on eligibility, recruiting, and financial aid, regulates college sports. The NCAA has three membership divisions-division I, II, and III. Institutions are members of one or another division according to the size and scope of their athletic programs and whether they provide athletic scholarships.

If a high school student athlete wants to play NCAA college sports and be considered for athletic scholarship at the Division I or II level, they will need to register with, and be cleared by, the NCAA Eligibility Center. The NCAA Eligibility Center is the organization within the NCAA that determines the academic eligibility and amateur status for all NCAA Division I and II athletes. Student athletes must apply and be approved prior to their freshman year of college, or they will not be allowed to be on the team or to accept any athletic scholarships. It is recommended to apply to the NCAA Eligibility Center before the end of your 11th grade school year. For additional information about the process, student athletes should contact their counselor or work with their athletic coach.

Participation Requirements

Prior to a student's participation in any tryout, practice, or contest with a team they must supply the following items:

- Current PIAA medical evaluation forms are properly completed by a parent/guardian and physician/nurse practitioner for the current school year to include the sports physical.
- Signatures of the Code of Conduct as outlined by the Student Handbook and the Athletic Handbook by the student athlete and their parent/guardian(s)
- Concussion baseline testing completed and current (information will be provided by the Athletic Trainer)
- Recertification form completed within six weeks of start of season if the student played another sport in the current school year

Participation Risk

Participation in interscholastic athletic activities often includes intense competition and poses the potential for serious, catastrophic, or life-threatening injury. Participants and parents are urged to consider that there are inherent risks and hazards associated with athletic participation. Risks vary from sport-to-sport and can occur under direct supervision and with the use of proper safety equipment.

Physical Education Participation

Student-athletes who are enrolled in physical education class are expected to dress and participate in classroom activities, in-season and out-of-season. On the day of an interscholastic athletics contest, the student-athlete participation may be limited IF it has been granted by the faculty member.

Quitting

Quitting is defined as a student ending their participation in an interscholastic athletic activity prior to the official completion of that activity within that interscholastic athletics season. The official completion date would include any post-season activities that the interscholastic athletics team qualified for.

Completion of the season, including post-season, playoffs, tournaments, exhibitions and events is required in order for a student to be eligible for being awarded a varsity letter or other team and individual awards. An exception to this would be if injury or illness limited participation. In a case like this, the awarding of a varsity letter or other honors will be at the discretion of the advisor/coach.

A student-athlete who quits an interscholastic athletics activity must return all issued equipment and apparel to the head coach and/ or advisor or to the high school main office within one week of the date that they quit the team.

Sportsmanship

Students, parents/guardians, and athletic personnel representing the South Middleton School District in interscholastic athletics are required to always show respect to all participants, coaches/advisors, and spectators.

Specific examples of behavior not tolerated by this policy include, but are not limited to profanity, mockery, intimidation, or malicious contact.

Witnessed and/ or reported unsportsmanlike behavior will be addressed promptly. When a report is received, the administrative personnel review and further investigate the allegations reported.

The following guidelines pertain to sportsmanship infractions of a student participant of an interscholastic athletic team and work in conjunction with established PIAA rules and guidelines:

- Any student removed from a contest by an official for a sportsmanship violation shall not be allowed to participate in the next contest and must complete all assignments given by the coaches and the administration.
- Any student removed by officials from a total of two contests in a single school year for sportsmanship violations will be required to meet with the athletic director and principal and additional consequences may be assigned.
- The calls made by an official are final and shall not be reconsidered by any school district personnel.
- The head coach shall notify the student's parent/guardian and the athletic director within 24 hours in regard to any sportsmanship violations.

- Any team member who demeans a teammate or coach through verbal or written communication including social media shall be subject to disciplinary penalties for violation of the Code of Conduct.
- Any team member who engages in conduct that reflects negatively on the team or the school shall be subject to disciplinary penalties for violation of the Code of Conduct.

Since interscholastic athletics should be educational in nature, it is important that all students, parents/guardians, and athletic personnel model Sportsmanship. Sportsmanship is an overt display of respect for the rules of sport and for all others. It also involves a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity.

- There can be no vulgar or inappropriate language from our fans or spectators.
- Taunting or trash talking of our opponents, their cheerleaders, and their spectators cannot be tolerated.
- Spectators cannot leave the bleachers or enter onto the court or field during an event.
- Fans should be supportive and positive. Cheering should be done for our team and not against our opponent.
- We should not impede or interfere with our opponent's cheerleaders from leading their cheers.
- In some specific sports such as basketball and volleyball, we should not yell at an opponent during a foul shot or as a player attempts to serve.
- School officials have the authority to remove a spectator (s) from a contest for unruly or improper conduct.
- The individual (s) may be removed for the duration of a particular contest or for any extended period of time depending on the severity or frequency of the improper conduct.
- Possession of intoxicants and/or illegal substances is prohibited. Smoking is also prohibited on school grounds.

Acceptable Behavior

- Applaud during the introduction of players, coaches and officials.
- Recognize a player's performance who has fouled out with applause from both sets of fans and with a handshake from opponents.
- Accept all decisions of officials.
- Shake hands at end of contest between participants and coaches regardless of the outcome.
- Treat the competition as a game and not a war.
- Search out and congratulate opposing coaches and players.
- Show concern for an injured player regardless of which team he or she plays for.
- Encourage only sportsmanlike conduct which includes class, dignity and respect.

Unacceptable Behavior

- Yelling or waving arms during opponent's free-throw attempts
- Performing disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs, or gestures
- Booing or heckling an official's decision
- Criticizing officials in any way; displays of temper with an official's call
- Yelling anything that might antagonize the opponents
- Refusing to shake hands or give recognition for good performances
- Blaming loss of game on official, coaches, or participants
- Taunting or name-calling to distract an opponent
- Using profanity or displays of anger that draws attention away from the game
- Performing your own cheers instead of following lead of the cheerleaders

Sports Medicine

The Sports Medicine/Athletic Training staff's purpose is to work for the prevention of athletic injuries, care of those that do occur, and work for complete recovery through rehabilitation so that the student-athlete can return to practice and competition safely and quickly. All of this can be completed with your help and cooperation. All injuries, cuts, abrasions, etc., should be reported to the athletic trainer on the day of the occurrence. If you are injured during practice, notify the coach who will either call or send you to the athletic trainer for care. The coach will administer first-aid and emergency procedures when the athletic trainer is not immediately available. The Sports Medicine Program operates under the supervision of the school physicians as well as other local physicians and surgeons on a referral basis. If a student-athlete is injured while participating in an interscholastic athletic event, you should first notify your coach and then report to the athletic trainer for an initial evaluation, treatment and referral as needed. A student referred to or seen by a physician for any reason relating to their athletic participation must have written documentation from the physician stating that they are "cleared to play" before resuming participation. The athletic trainer will then evaluate/test the athlete to determine their readiness to resume participation based on return to play criteria.

Team Captains and Managers

There are several good reasons for having captains of a team. These athletes may serve as positive role models, links between the team and the coach, and they certainly should be leaders. A good captain can be a real asset to the team and coaching staff.

While some coaches may allow their team to select captains, the ultimate responsibility lies with the coach. It is also important to understand that serving in the capacity of a captain is not reserved solely for seniors on a team, but rather this position is for the athlete who is best suited to fulfilling the responsibilities.

All captains will be requested to complete the "Captains Course" from www.nfhslearn.com upon selection.

Theft and/or Vandalism

Students are expected to show respect for the property owned by the school district, other schools, private individuals and other private or public entities. Theft and/or vandalism denote poor school citizenship and any student involved in such activity will be referred to the school administration for disciplinary action. In addition to the consequences listed for violations of this policy, the student will be subject to the disciplinary guidelines of the school. This could result in possible suspension or expulsion from school.

Ticket Prices

Adult full year season pass - \$75.00

Student full year season pass - \$25.00

High School Athletic Contests

Adults - \$5.00

Students - \$3.00

Junior High Athletic Contests

Adults - \$2.00

Students - \$1.00

Transportation to School-Sponsored Activities

Students must use school provided transportation to travel to and from activities away from the South Middleton School District or its approved home facilities. Transportation standards are located on the www.boilingspringsathletes.org page under the Forms Tab along with the transportation waiver form. The only exceptions are as follows:

- Injury to a participant which requires alternate transportation
- Prior arrangements are made in writing between the participant's parent/guardian and the school for the student to ride with the parent/guardian or those specified by the parent/guardian.
- When school transportation is not provided, and alternate means are approved by the school administration

Website/ Email/ Social Media Use (Personal Use)

Prospective student-athletes should be aware that third parties—including the media, faculty, future employers and college officials—could easily access your profiles and view all of your personal information. This can include pictures and videos and electronic communications. Inappropriate material affects the perception of the student athlete and our school district and can be detrimental to a prospective student-athletes' futures (i.e. college, profession). Some examples of inappropriate behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include depictions or presentations of the following:

- Photos, videos, comments or posters showing the personal use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco
- Photos, videos, and comments that are of 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 but is not limited to images that portray the personal use of drugs and drug paraphernalia.
- Content online that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening toward any other individual or entity (examples: derogatory comments regarding another school; taunting comments aimed at a student-athlete, coach or team at another school and derogatory comments against race and/or gender).
- No posts should depict or encourage unacceptable, violent or illegal activities (examples: hazing, sexual harassment/assault, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, underage drinking, and illegal drug use).

Supporting Healthy Relationships in Interscholastic Athletics

The Athletic Handbook serves as a tool to provide guidelines around policies, expectations, and important resources available to the student-athletes, parents/ guardians, and athletic personnel. The guidelines listed below provide an overview of the expectations of the relationships that inevitably form and how to support a healthy relationship between all members involved in interscholastic athletics.

The Player-Coach Relationship

Unfortunately, through televised games and the more recent proliferation of cable TV, many adults feel that they understand or perhaps know more than many coaches. Everyone becomes an expert. This newfound expertise may heighten your appreciation of a sport, as a parent; however, you are not the coach.

The player-coach relationship is perhaps the most critical relationship in athletics. Unfortunately, a parent can have a pronounced effect on this very important and delicate relationship. While you may not agree with all decisions of a coach, how and when you express your feelings can have a distinct effect upon your child.

If you express a negative opinion in the presence of your child, you need to remember that he or she will return to practice the next day and may carry with him or her your convictions. Your son or daughter will then have to interact with this coach. You, as the parent, can greatly affect this delicate relationship.

Receiving technical or strategic instruction at home may interfere and conflict with the instructional process at practice sessions and games. This may ultimately impede your son or daughter's progress and affect his or her playing time or even winning a starting position.

The Parent-Coach Relationship

In your role as a parent, you obviously love and are concerned about your child's welfare. You want the best for him or her. But an athlete can have only one coach. Allowing the coach to instruct and guide the team is crucial in many respects.

Should you have any questions or concerns, do not approach the coach immediately at the conclusion of a contest. At this time coaches have other responsibilities, and it may be an emotional time. Call and make an appointment for a later time and approach this meeting in a calm, courteous and logical manner.

One of the responsibilities that a coach has at the conclusion of a contest is to have a brief meeting with his or her players. Athletes should not pause to talk to parents or friends immediately after games. These brief meetings are essential to the learning process involved in athletics.

Parent-Athletic Director Relationship

The athletic director supervises the administering of all high school and middle school athletic teams. Prior to approaching the athletic director regarding the management of an athletic team, a parent should first speak to the coach. If the parent is not satisfied with the discussion with the coach, the parent may request a meeting with the athletic director and the coach. However, the issues of playing time, techniques, and strategies are not appropriate topics of discussion with the coach or athletic director.

The Parent-Player

Being positive and supportive is critical in your role as a parent/guardian. Avoiding adding pressure and/ or expectations that may be unrealistic or compromising the expectations set through the team and coaches can be harmful. Allow your student-athlete to enjoy and grow from this valuable experience. In numerous national studies, it has been determined that most athletes participate for enjoyment or fun. Excessive pressure or expectations can alter this most fundamental reason for playing.

When you do speak with your child after a contest, it is valuable to offer a platform where the student-athlete can speak to their performance, formulating their own assessment based on their perspective. Ask them if they feel they met their own personal goals and/ or that of the coaches and team.

Relationship with Officials

There is an age-old refrain often used by irate fans. "How much are you paying the officials?" The home school does not get officials. The commissioner of the particular sport assigns all officials, and neither team controls which officials are assigned.

Officials agree to and follow a code of ethics. They really do not care or have a vested interest in which team emerges as the victor. It is also important to understand that they are a very necessary part of a game. A contest cannot be played without them.

While you may not agree with the calls, (who does?), it is expected that you do not harass and/ or taunt them. The officials oversee the contest and have complete authority to have unruly spectators removed. In many sports, a team will see the same official several times during a season. Coaches, athletic administrators and schools often work hard to establish a rapport and good working relationship which can easily be damaged by spectators.

Responsibilities of a Prospective Student-Athlete

At Boiling Springs High School and Yellow Breeches Middle School, a student-athlete is responsible to:

- Place team goals, the welfare and success of the team above themselves
- Consistently attend in-season practice sessions to include holiday and/ or weekend trainings
- Be receptive to the coaching staff's direction
- Report all injuries to the coach and the athletic trainer
- Be responsible for all issued athletic apparel and equipment items
- Adhere to the team rules
- Be ambassadors, representing the team, coaching staff, school, and community with respectful character

Responsibilities of a Coach

At Boiling Springs High School and Yellow Breeches Middle School, a coach has the responsibility for the following:

- The selection of the squad and final determination of selected captains
- The determination of the style of play, including the offensive and defensive philosophy
- The teaching and instruction at practice sessions
- The determination of who starts and how long an athlete plays in a contest
- The decision of who plays in what position
- The establishing of team rules
- The establishing of the requirements to earn a letter
- The communication with athletes and parents with respect to all aspects of managing the program

Expectations for Spectator Behavior

The mission of the interscholastic athletic program(s) is to teach and reinforce student-athlete's values relating to wholesome competition, good sportsmanship and fair play. It is expected that spectators reinforce these values by exhibiting appropriate behavior at athletic events. A condition of entry into an athletic event is that all spectators agree to recognize the event as an extension of the learning process, and that all attending have the responsibility to model appropriate behavior. The event is a unique opportunity for spectators to be a part of a positive and productive learning environment and to model behavior appropriate to a high school setting.

- applaud players for their efforts
- accept the decisions of officials
- appreciate participants for their commitment
- support school personnel in conducting an orderly and spirited contest
- maintain composure when things seem to go against your team
- respect the rights of other spectators
- reward sportsmanlike behavior through cheering
- focus attention on positive aspects of competition
- encourage players by showing enthusiasm and positive recognition
- demonstrate concern for the safety and welfare of athletes

Spectator-Cheerleader

Cheerleaders try to infuse spirit into the fans/spectators and to lead them in selected cheers. Taking this responsibility into your own hands is not appropriate. Fans who leave the stands to direct cheers may often cause or lead to confrontations with their opponents. Following the cheerleaders' directions, therefore, is absolutely necessary at all athletic contests.

The emotion and atmosphere at athletic contests can be very exciting, and the cheerleaders need to be allowed to direct and control this aspect of the event

Remember

Student-Athletes, Coaches, Athletic Personnel, and Officials will make errors. However, all participants are trying their best. Negative criticism and booing will not help nor are they acceptable forms of expression at any interscholastic athletic contest. Be positive in the delivery of your messages and cooperate to enhance the overall student-athlete and team experience.

South Middleton School District Interscholastic Athletics Consent Form (Participant/ Parent)

Permission to Participate in Interscholastic Athletics

I/We hereby authorize and consent to our child's participation in interscholastic athletics and sports. We understand that the sport in which our child will be participating is potentially dangerous and that physical injuries may occur to our child requiring emergency medical care and treatment. I/We assume the risk of injury our child may incur in an athletic activity. I/we hereby authorize representatives of the school district to discuss concerns with our student when we are not present. I/we understand that this may include allegations, team dynamics, coaching decisions, and other appropriate items.

I/we agree that playing time, positioning, status on the team and coaching styles are the responsibility of the head coach. If I/we feel as though there is something amiss with team behavior or atmosphere I/we will first address these concerns with the head coach. If I/we are not satisfied with that response, I/we will further make these concerns known to the athletic director. If I/we are still not satisfied with the resolution I/we will bring these concerns to the building principal who will make the final decision.

In consideration of the acceptance of our child by the South Middleton School District in its athletic program, and the benefits derived by our child from participation, I/we agree to release and hold harmless the board of education, its members, the administration, all coaches, and any and all other of their agents, servants, and/or employees and agree to indemnify each of them from any claims, costs, suits, actions, judgment, and expenses arising from our child's participation in interscholastic athletics.

I/We hereby give our consent and authorize the South Middleton School District and its agents, servants, and/or employees to consent on our behalf and on behalf of our child, to emergency medical care and treatment in the event we are unable to be notified by reasonable attempts of the need for such emergency medical care and treatment.

I/We have read and will follow the Code of Conduct outlined in the SMSD Student Handbook.

I/We have read and will follow the guidelines and expectations set forth in the Athletic Handbook.

I/We understand that infractions could result in sanctioning and/ or potential removal from participation on an interscholastic athletic program.

I/We have reviewed Board Policy 227 and acknowledge that "if based on the student's behavior, medical symptoms, vital signs or other observable factors, the school administrators have reasonable suspicion that the student is under the influence of a controlled substance, the student may be required to submit to drug and alcohol testing. The testing may include but is not limited to the analysis of blood, urine, saliva, or the administration of a breathalyzer test."

I/We have reviewed Board Policy 247 and Board Policy 249 and agree to abide by the terms outlined in such policies to ensure a safe and positive learning environment as participants of an interscholastic athletics program.

Participant Name: _____

Grade: _____

Participant Sport: _____

Participant Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

South Middleton School District Interscholastic Athletics Consent Form (Athletic Coaches)

I/We have read and will follow the Code of Conduct outlined in the SMSD Student Handbook.

I/We have read and will follow the guidelines and expectations set forth in the Athletic Handbook.

I/We understand that infractions could result in sanctioning and/ or potential removal from participation on an interscholastic athletic program.

I/We have reviewed Board Policy 227 and acknowledge that "if based on the student's behavior, medical symptoms, vital signs or other observable factors, the school administrators have reasonable suspicion that the student is under the influence of a controlled substance, the student may be required to submit to drug and alcohol testing. The testing may include but is not limited to the analysis of blood, urine, saliva, or the administration of a breathalyzer test."

I/We have reviewed Board Policy 247 and Board Policy 249 and agree to abide by the terms outlined in such policies to ensure a safe and positive learning environment as participants of an interscholastic athletics program.

Interscholastic Athletic Program _____

Head Coach Date

Assistant Coach

Assistant Coach

Assistant Coach

Assistant Coach

Assistant Coach

Assistant Coach

Assistant Coach

Assistant Coach

Assistant Coach