

SCOTTSBORO CITY SCHOOLS



STUDENT ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

Revised 2019

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ATHLETIC STATEMENT

This athletic handbook is designed to inform student athletes and their parents of the rules, regulations, and information that helped develop the rich tradition that is Scottsboro Wildcat Athletics. Participation in athletics is a privilege and not a right. Those who choose to participate shall be expected to follow the rules established by the Scottsboro High School and Scottsboro Junior High School athletic departments and other specific coaches' rules for their sport. Each student athlete represents his/her school, their faculty and administration, and the entire student body. It is the student athlete's duty to conduct themselves in a manner that is becoming of the student athlete, his/her family, Scottsboro City Schools and our community.

The athletic department will enforce all rules and regulations as described in this handbook. Parents and athletes are asked to sign an acknowledgement document located at the end of this handbook stating that they have read and understand the information included and that the athlete is subject to disciplinary measures should he/she violate the rules and regulations set forth in this handbook and endorsed by Scottsboro City Schools.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENTAL PHILOSOPHY

The goal of the Scottsboro High School and the Scottsboro Junior High School Athletic Department is to provide the best opportunities for student athletes to excel in teamwork, sportsmanship, self-discipline and character. In addition to developing skill in a sport, the purpose is to provide each participant with experiences that will be positive and memorable and that help develop the capacity for commitment to a cause, acceptance of responsibility and loyalty toward any chosen endeavor.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

All Alabama High School Athletic Association academic requirements for participation in Junior High School and High School athletics will be followed.

To be eligible in the 7th Grade: All first time athletes in the 7th Grade will be eligible if they are promoted from the 6th to the 7th Grade

To be eligible in the 8th and 9th Grades: All 8th and 9th Grade athletes must have passed during the last two semesters in attendance and summer school if applicable, at least five new subjects with a minimum composite numerical average of 70.

To be eligible in the 10th – 12th Grades: All high school students in grades 10 – 12 must have passed a minimum of six full units of work with a composite numerical average of 70 for those units during the previous year. Not more than one unit may be in Physical Education. A maximum of two units may be earned in summer school. A new unit (subject) is not one previously passed. Four core courses of English, Math, Social Studies, or Science must be included in the six courses passed. A high school student who is eligible to begin the school year will remain eligible for the entirety of that school year. A high school student who is not eligible at the beginning of a school year may regain their eligibility at the end of the first semester by meeting the academic requirements listed above during their last two consecutive semesters.

ATTENDANCE ELIGIBILITY

Daily attendance at school and practice is expected. In order to be eligible to participate in any after school activity, he/she must be present in school on the day of the activity. If the activity is to be held on a Saturday, then the student must be in attendance on the preceding Friday.

To be considered present in school, a student must be in school at least one half of the school day. They may not check in no later than the end of second period or check out not prior to the conclusion of second period on the said day. If he/she is not in school for at least one half of the school day, then he/she is not participate in the activity. Practices are considered an activity. Any exceptions must be approved by the Principal or the Athletic Director of the school.

An athlete must be in school on a regular basis in order to be eligible to participate in athletics.

An athlete who accumulates excessive unexcused absences or tardies will be subject to discipline by the administration of the said school.

CONDUCT ELIGIBILITY

SHS and SJHS students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that does not reflect negatively on the school and/or its programs. In addition to following the guidelines set forth by the Scottsboro City Schools Code of Student Conduct and the Student Athletic Handbook, student athletes are expected to adhere to individual sport policies and procedures. Committing any act that reflects negatively on the Athletic Department will not be tolerated and such actions could lead to eligibility restrictions. If the behavior is serious enough, the athlete may be placed on probation or suspended from participation.

If a violation of the Code of Conduct occurs in the last part of a sport and violator cannot fulfill the terms of his/her consequences, the suspension does carry over until the suspension is completed. When serving a school suspension, including out of school suspension or Alternative school placement, the student athlete will be ineligible for all contests and practices during the suspension period. Attendance at athletic events is prohibited during the suspension period as a participant or a spectator. In school detention (ISD) does not count as suspension and athletes will be allowed to participate at the conclusion of the school day.

Consequences for off campus violations of the Code of Conduct or the student athlete handbook will not be based on hearsay or rumor. When there is a reasonable knowledge and belief based on the facts and circumstances or when there is an admission of guilt by the athlete to a violation, student athletes are subject to discipline by school administration.

The rules under this section are enforced twelve months of the year for athletes in grades 7-12.

AHSAA REQUIREMENTS

REPRESENTATION RULES

To represent your school in athletic contests:

1. You must be a regularly enrolled student and must not have enrolled in a school no later than the 20th school day of the semester in which the contest occurs.
2. You must not have graduated from an accredited high school or equal grades.
3. You must not have reached your 19th birthday prior to Aug. 1 of the current school year. Junior high students must not have reached your 15th birthday prior to Aug. 1. A student reaching these birthdays on or after Aug. 1 is eligible for the entire year.
4. You must not have attended high school more than eight consecutive semesters after entering the 9th grade.

5. You must not have participated in any sport more than four seasons after entering the 9th grade or have participated more than six seasons in any one sport after entering the 7th grade.
6. You must be an amateur athlete and never have played on a college team.

STAR SPORTSMANSHIP

Each SHS / SJHS student athlete must have attempted and completed successfully the STAR sportsmanship course requirement. A copy of the certificate of completion will remain on file in the Principal's office for each student. It is good practice to do this in the 7th grade as student athletes begin their school careers. A certificate achieved from the Advanced Middle School portion of the course will suffice for the athlete's entire career until completing their senior year.

CONCUSSION POLICY

Each SHS / SJHS student athlete and their parents must annually sign and complete a concussion policy statement. A copy of this form will remain in the Principal's office for the entirety of the school year.

RELEASE FORM

Each SHS / SJHS student athlete and their parents must annually sign and complete a AHSAA Release Form. A copy of this form will remain in the Principal's office for the entirety of the school year.

BIRTH CERTIFICATE

Each SHS / SJHS student athlete must have a certified birth certificate (issued by the State Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state where you were born and bearing its official seal and number) on file in the Principal's office.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

Each SHS / SJHS student athlete must have received an adequate physical examination for the current school year and have a Physician's Certificate on file in the Principal's office. The examination must be signed by a MD or DO and cannot be signed by a PA or CRNP.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

All student athletes must meet the residency requirements set forth by the AHSAA as well as the Scottsboro City Board of Education. Any student whose parents make a “bona fide” move from one community, school zone, or district to another may transfer all rights and privileges to the new school that serves the area into which the parents moved and currently reside. Listed below are some key points to identify “bona fide” moves.

1. Household furniture of the family must be moved.
2. All principal members of the family must reside in the new place of residence.
3. The original residence should be closed, rented, or disposed of and not used by the family. Non-compliance of this could mean that the family has dual residencies, which prohibits participation.
4. Nine months at the new residence shall be required to make a bona fide move. If a family moves into a new school zone and remains there for less than 9 months, the move will not be considered bona fide and the family’s child who is enrolled and participating in athletics in the new zone becomes ineligible at that school.
5. Any student upon completion of the highest grade taught in any school that offers less than the number of years required for high school graduation, becomes eligible immediately at the member high school that serves that area which the parents reside.

SPORTSMANSHIP

A priority of this athletic department is to display good sportsmanship. Good sportsmanship requires everyone to be treated with respect. This includes members of the opposing team, officials, coaches, and spectators. Good sportsmanship includes showing courtesy and kindness toward your opponent as well as fellow team members. The contest is judged by the effort of the participants and not by putting down your opponent. Winning is exciting, but winning at any cost is not the goal. Negative treatment of any participant is outside the interest of the contest.

All AHSAA sanctioned events are a reflection of our community and school. The conduct of the team should be extended to parents and fans before, during and after athletic events.

Unsportsmanlike conduct from coaches and/or players will not be tolerated. The AHSAA has outlined the penalties associated with unsportsmanlike conduct as follows:

- A. First Ejection:** Minimum fine of \$300. First time students who are ejected will be allowed to lessen the fine to \$100 by completing the Advanced STAR Sportsmanship course within a 10 day time period following the ejection.
- B. Second Ejection:** Minimum penalty of suspension for one game and a \$500 fine.
- C. Third Ejection:** Minimum penalty of suspension for the remainder of the year plus a \$750 fine.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

The Scottsboro City Board of Education is ever mindful of the dangers that drugs and alcohol pose to the health and wellbeing of those students who participate in sports. Student athletes are recognized as leaders and role models for other students in our school system. All student athletes are prohibited from possessing, using, selling, transmitting, intending to transmit, or being under the influence of a “prohibited substance.”

For violations of this policy, including refusal to submit to drug screening, failure to execute a release, or failure to cooperate with an investigation or search by the administration, the following penalties shall be administered. These penalties are minimum penalties and are subject to be followed by additional penalties imposed by administration or coaches.

First Violation: The student athlete shall be suspended from participation in the sport or activity in which he/she is currently participating for a minimum of two weeks or 20% (whichever is greater) of their scheduled contests for the season beginning no earlier than the opening game or event for that sport. If a student athlete is not participating in an in-season sport, he/she will serve a suspension no earlier than the opening contest of the next season.

Second Violation: The student athlete shall be suspended from participating in any sport or activity for the remainder of the school year. The duration of the suspension shall be for a minimum of 8 weeks carrying over to the ensuing school year if necessary. Before reinstatement to the team, the athlete (1) must test negative for that prohibited substance and (2) must have undergone counseling with the school counseling staff or other approved agency.

Third Violation: The student athlete will be suspended from participating in any sport or activity for a full calendar year. Before reinstatement to the team or squad, the student athlete (1) must test negative for that prohibited substance as a result of an approved drug test and (2) must have undergone mandatory counseling with the school counseling staff or other approved agency.

Fourth Violation: The student athlete will be indefinitely suspended or permanently banned from participating in the athletic programs of the Scottsboro City School System.

ATHLETIC TRAINING / INJURY POLICY

All accidents or injuries occurring to student athletes are to be reported to the trainer and/or coach immediately. Scottsboro High School and Scottsboro Junior High School are currently partnered with The Orthopedic Center (TOC) and Highlands Medical Center. Our trainer, Preston Carlson, may be reached at (256) 599-6099 or preston.carlson@hhsys.org. The administration and coaches of SHS and SJHS ask that you allow the school trainer to treat our athletes before seeking outside assistance. If other medical assistance is sought out, such as emergency rooms or family doctors, written verification from a physician will be required before returning to competition.

NCAA INFORMATION

If you have a student athlete with aspirations of playing sports at the collegiate level, you should begin your academic planning and preparation prior to your freshmen year. Information about NCAA eligibility requirements may be found at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net. Initial eligibility requirements have changed over the years and continue to do so. The NCAA recommends that student athletes register with the clearinghouse at the beginning of their junior year in high school.

AHSAA GENERAL INFORMATION

1. You may not participate on a **non-school team** or in an outside sport activity in your sport during your school season. The schedule of the school team, including the post season schedule, takes precedence over any outside participation of an individual. Some individual sports do permit independent participation in some events. For more information, refer to the AHSAA guidelines for that sport.
2. You may not dress in uniform for an athletic contest or sit on the bench in a game uniform if you are not eligible to participate in the event.
3. You may not participate in two levels of competition (Varsity, JV, Junior High) in one sport in the same event or same day.
4. You must attend a parent /athlete meeting and sign an Acknowledgement of the Athletic Handbook before participating.

AHSAA Classification Information

Football - Region 8: Arab, Ardmore, Brewer, East Limestone, Guntersville, Madison Academy, Madison County, Scottsboro

Basketball / Volleyball / Baseball - Area 15: Arab, Brewer, Guntersville, Scottsboro

Softball - Area 16: Ardmore, East Limestone, Madison County, Scottsboro

Soccer - Area 12: Boaz, Cherokee County, Crossville, Scottsboro

Wrestling - Section 2

Cross Country / Outdoor Track - Section 4

Swimming - Section 3

Tennis - Section 8

Boys Golf - Section 4

Girls Golf - Section 3

SHS / SJHS GENERAL INFORMATION

1. You must complete a SHS / SJHS Release Form in its entirety including the Health Insurance Information section.
2. A student athlete cannot quit a team and join another team in season until the season is over for the team that he/she quit.
3. Student athletes may participate in more than one sport during the same season if the is in good standing with both programs there is no conflict with practices or contests.
4. All student athletes are required to have medical insurance and must supply information verifying such before participating in a sport. The catastrophic insurance obtained from the AHSAA should in no way be interpreted as replacing regular insurance and accident coverage which a student must have. Catastrophic insurance only becomes effective after \$10,000 in medical expenses have been incurred within one year.
5. Each coaching staff will have a selection process for choosing their teams. Some sports will conduct try-outs and make cuts. Some sports will have an off season, or spring training, to select teams. Coaches will be able to justify the reasons why a student athlete makes or doesn't make a team.
6. All SHS / SJHS athletes will travel to contests on a Scottsboro City Schools bus and will be driven by a state approved driver who holds a valid Alabama Commercial Driver's License. Charter buses may also be used for some trips. The Head Coach of each sport can allow athletes to "sign out" and ride home with their parents only if they elect to.
7. Some SHS teams compete at a facility off campus. For these athletes, the students who hold a valid driver's license may drive their personal vehicles to that location. Under no circumstances, should another athlete ride in the vehicle with them to the venue.
8. If the Parent/Guardian of the student athlete has problem with playing time, strategy, or an occurrence during a game, the parent should wait 24 hours before contacting the coach to set up an appointment to discuss the issue. The "24 Hour Rule" is an attempt to diffuse situations between Parents/Guardians and our coaches.

STUDENT ATHLETE AUTHORIZATION FOR DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION

Health information regarding injury or illness during the student athlete's training for and participation in athletics at SHS / SJHS must have authorization and permission granted for the release of information regarding the student athlete's condition. Authorization must be granted to physicians, athletic trainers, sports medicine staff and other health care personnel to release this information. This protected health information may concern the student athlete's medical status, medical condition, injuries, prognosis, diagnosis, athletic participation status, and related individually identifiable health information. This protected health information may be released to other health care providers, hospitals and/or medical clinics, pertinent athletic coaches, medical insurance coordinators, school administrators, clergy members, and officials of the Alabama High School Athletic Association.

Parents/Guardians should understand that authorization and consent to the disclosure of the student athletes protected health information is a condition for the student athlete's participation in interscholastic sports at the school. Parents/Guardians should understand that the student athlete's protected health information is protected under federal law, but also understand that once the information is disclosed per this authorization, the information is subject to re-disclosure by the recipient and may no longer be protected under federal law. As Parent/Guardian, you should understand that you may refuse to sign this authorization, but if you do, the school will not allow the student athlete to participate in interscholastic athletics. As Parent/Guardian or student athlete, you may revoke this authorization at any time by notifying school administration in writing, but if you do, it will not have any effect of actions taken in reliance of prior authorization. This authorization expires one year from the date it was signed.

Huntsville Hospital and The Orthopedic Center personnel (physicians, athletic trainers, sports medicine staff, and other health care personnel) provide many services for our program and they will be covered by this authorization as well.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

I acknowledge receipt of the athletic handbook and have read the rules concerning eligibility and conduct for Scottsboro City Schools student athletes. I understand the rules and regulations and realize that I am subject to disciplinary measures should I violate them. I do agree to participate and conduct myself in accordance with the rules of our athletic program and with any other specific rules of my coaches.

We the undersigned, agree that we have been given the following information and understand fully.

- I. The school agrees to provide:
 - A. Supervision**
 - B. Instruction**
 - C. Proper Equipment**
 - D. Proper Safety Precautions****
- II. To abide by all written rules regarding behavior and safety.**
- III. That participating in athletics may cause serious injury or death.**
- IV. The school offers a supplemental, school accident insurance plan. It is the responsibility of the parents to enroll in the school insurance plan. Any difference in the basic coverage, deductibles, or other related expenses will be paid by the Parent/Guardian.**
- V. I was given an opportunity to attend a seminar that addressed the following areas:
 - A. Hazards and danger associated with athletics.**
 - B. Promoting safety in athletics.**
 - C. School's insurance plan.**
 - D. Maintenance of equipment.**
 - E. Transportation.****

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Athlete Signature: _____

Date: _____