

Dorchester School District Two

**Student Athletic Handbook
2023 - 2024**



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MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Dear Student Athletes, Parents/Guardian, and Community Members,

Dorchester School District Two's (DD2) interscholastic athletics serve one of the largest populations of student athletes in grades 7-12 in the state of South Carolina. Our schools serve over 12,000 students. The athletic office oversees 26 athletic offerings across three seasons. It is the department's mission to provide high- quality educational-based athletic programs and learning experiences to engage and enhance the holistic growth of students. Our goal and vision through DD2 educational-based athletic programs is for our students to develop skills which will help them in college, career, and life.

We have seen first-hand that athletic programs teach our students teamwork, goal setting, self-discipline, sportsmanship, leadership, and many more valuable life skills. The acquisition and application of these lessons are put into practice daily as our young people become leaders and effect positive change in their school, communities, and society. Our department plans to continue building by developing additional athletic programs and leadership opportunities to serve our student athletes.

To ensure quality programing is put into action, we have developed a resource for our student athletes and families. The information provided in this handbook is compiled from many different sources. It is intended to serve as a resource to help you with common athletic related questions and procedures such as eligibility, competitions, rules, etc. For more detailed information, I recommend visiting the following websites:

- <https://ddtwoorg.finalsite.com/district/departments/athletics>
- www.schsl.org

All student athletes who participate in Dorchester School District Two interscholastic athletic programs are subject to the handbook's rules, regulations, and guidelines. Please review it thoroughly. Your signatures in the registration packet verify you read, understand, and agree to the handbook.

In addition to the provided websites, I encourage you to connect with your school's athletic director as a resource for any questions or concerns. If our department can be of any assistance, please reach out to our staff. I look forward to your student participating in interscholastic athletics this school year.

Thank you,

Tyronne Drakeford

District Director of Athletics

tdrakeford@dorchester2.k12.sc.us

DISTRICT OVERVIEW

DISTRICT SCHOOL DISTRICT TWO

815 S. Main Street, Summerville, SC 29843
843-873-2901

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ms. Gail Hughes (Chair)
Mrs. Ashley Wimberly (Vice Chair)
Mr. Evan Guthrie (Secretary)
Mrs. Kellie Bates
Mrs. Barbara Crosby
Mr. Justin Farnsworth
Mrs. Cynthia Powell

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. William Shane Robbins

High Schools

Ashley Ridge High School
9800 Delemar Hwy
Summerville SC 29485
(843) 695-4900

Fort Dorchester High School
8500 Patriot Blvd
North Charleston, SC 29420
(843) 760-4450

Summerville High School
1101 Boone Hill Rd
Summerville, SC 29483
(843) 873.-6460

Middle Schools

Alston Middle School
500 Bryan St
Summerville, SC 29483
(843) 873-3890

DuBose Middle School
1005 DuBose School Rd
Summerville, SC 29483
(843) 875-7012

East Edisto Middle School
1011 Beech Hill Rd
Summerville, SC 29485
(843) 695-2451

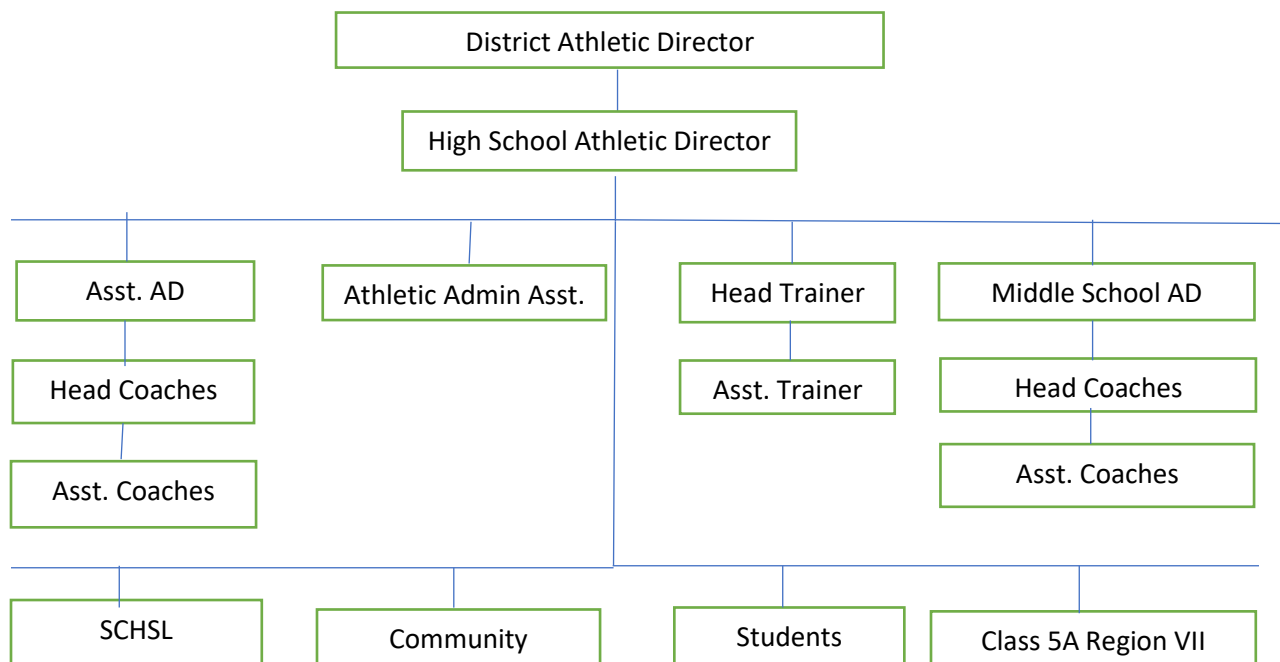
Gregg Middle School
500 Greenwave Blvd
Summerville, SC 29485
(843) 871-3150

Oakbrook Middle School
296 Old Fort Dr
Ladson, SC 29456
(843) 873-9750

River Oaks Middle School
8642 River Oaks Dr
North Charleston, SC 29420
(843)695-2470

Rollings Middle School
1635 Beech Hill Rd
Summerville, SC 29485
(843) 873-3610

PROGRAM STRUCTURE



School Building and Administrators

The Principal is responsible for the operation of the school’s athletic programs in full compliance with the policies and regulations of the School Board and various athletic affiliation groups.

Affiliations-League, District, State

Dorchester School District Two high schools are members of the SCHSL, Class 5A Region 7. All high school sports are subject to the regulations and policies of these organizations. Coaches should be familiar with the regulations pertaining to their sport. Our district middle schools are SCHSL affiliated and play within the district’s middle school athletic league.

District Athletic Department

The District Athletic Department, under the direction of the District Director of Athletics, is responsible for coordination and oversight of the district’s athletic programs and provides support and guidance to schools as needed.

District School Board and Superintendent

The School Board and the Superintendent determine and implement school district policies. They delegate authority to the District Athletic Department Office for the operation of the district’s athletic programs.

PROGRAM MISSIONS STATEMENT CORE VALUES AND VISION

Mission Statement

It is the mission of Dorchester School District Two athletics to foster the development of interscholastic student-athletes, both on and off the playing fields in a manner that is consistent with the high school's mission.

Core Values

Discipline, Honesty, Integrity, and Accountability

Vision

Students that participate in our education based athletic programs will develop skills that will help them in college, career, and life.

STUDENT HANDBOOK POINTS OF EMPHASIS

**Students & parents/guardians should read the handbook prior to signing the consent form in the Registration Packet. This section contains notable updates to rules and regulations.*

To ensure our community is aware of changes or updates to rules as they relate to participation in interscholastic athletics, we ask that you review this section in depth. It is important that our community is made aware of recent changes and clarifications to rules that apply to our student- athletes. Key updates and clarifications are as follows:

- Falsification of an address or residence to attend a school the student is not zoned for will be cause for withdrawal from the student's school assignment and returned to their proper school. Students must reside within the Dorchester School District Two boundaries and attend school within their zoned areas. Questions about school assignments should be sent to the District Office.
- Coaches must not recruit or otherwise manipulate eligibility standards for the enrollment of student-athletes.

If you are not clear on the updates or clarifications above, contact your school's Athletic Director or the District's Athletic Department.

PROSPECTIVE ATHLETE INFORMATION

Athletic Registration and Physical Form

**Athletic Registration Procedure*

Athletes may obtain an ***Athletic Registration*** packet from their school or at the school website. Athletes should confirm with their school on which method/platform is utilized. Included in the registration materials are sport-specific release forms which outline the risks involved with each sport. The student athlete is required to review these risks with their parent(s)/guardian(s).

All items must be PROPERLY completed and signed by the appropriate person (parent/guardian, student) to be valid.

Each school's athletic administrative assistant and/or athletic director/coordinator examines all athletic paperwork to see that it is accurate and COMPLETE with all required signatures. Only students who have submitted all materials and been designated as cleared may participate; school's athletic administrative assistant provide each coach with a list or to confirm clearance.

Schools often have registration deadlines to ensure all materials are received before the start of the designated sports season. Students are responsible for adhering to these deadlines. If students or families have questions about their registration status, they should contact their individual school for further information.

**Athletic Physical Exam Procedure*

A physical examination is a prerequisite to participate in athletics; it certifies the athlete's physical condition is adequate to participate in interscholastic athletics.

The district approved medical providers licensed to perform this exam include a Medical Doctor (MD), Doctor of Osteopathy (DO), Nurse Practitioner (NP), and Physician's Assistant (PA). A physical will only be valid when conducted and signed by a medical professional from the above list. A physical examination remains valid for the current school year. Any physical examination done on or after April 1 is valid for the upcoming school year.

Athletes must complete a physical exam and submit their proof of physical **BEFORE** participating in any district-sponsored activity. Athletes are responsible for the expense of their physical exam.

MEMORANDUM ON STUDENT-ATHLETE SAFETY AND HEALTH CARE

The health and welfare of student-athletes is our top priority within the Athletic Department. Dorchester School District Two has taken several measures to improve athletic safety and to minimize potential risk to student/athletes while participating in interscholastic activities. The Dorchester School District Two Board has adopted an athletic safety program which includes:

- Sport safety guidelines for each sport
- Implementation of a formal selection process for coaches
- Adoption and funding for a certified athletic trainer program at the high school level

Coaches are critical in our work to serve student-athletes; for example, coaches are expected to work as part of an entire healthcare team to provide proper care for all student-athletes.

All coaches are required to have:

- Hands-on First Aid/CPR Certification (Hosted by American Heart Association or Red Cross)
- Fingerprinting/Background check (Dorchester School District Two)
- Adult Sexual Misconduct Training (SCHSL)
- Concussion Protocol Certification (SCHSL)
- Sudden Cardiac Arrest Certification (SCHSL)
- Sport Specific Rules Clinic and all other coaching standards (Hosted SCHSL)
- Any additional certifications required by the District or State including but are not limited to:
 - Preseason screening of student-athletes
 - Proper conditioning
 - Prevention of injuries
 - Recognition, treatment, and rehabilitation of injuries
 - Emergency preparedness
 - Injury reporting

CODE OF CONDUCT

Dorchester School District Two, in line with the SCHSL, supports sportsmanship and positive behavior at its athletic events. Participants are required and responsible for conforming to the rules and regulations of their school, the League, and the SCHSL, and to conduct themselves in a safe and sportsman-like manner. Violators are subject to probation, suspension, or expulsion.

STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES AND ATHLETIC RIGHTS

The rights, protection, and responsibilities as outlined by the SCHSL handbook, the Dorchester School District's Two Discipline student handbook, and their respective schools govern students participating in all interscholastic athletic programs.

Students and/or their parent(s)/guardians may make application for exceptions to League and SCHSL eligibility regulations and may appeal any decisions relative to such requests through their school principal.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

Pursuant to the Federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989, below is an excerpt of the district's most recent Use of Illegal Substances Policy for students and parents. For a complete list, visit the District's Discipline or Coordinated School Health Departments.

It is the policy of Dorchester School District Two public schools (DD2) to provide a drug and alcohol-free environment for our students and staff. Therefore, DD2 prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of drugs and alcohol by students in or on Dorchester School District Two property, on District-sponsored transportation, at District-sponsored events, and/or in District-owned vehicles.

Compliance with the District's policy is mandatory. Students who disregard the prohibition can result in a disciplinary action. Standard discipline for a first violation of any exceptional misconduct offense is suspension. The school's Safety & Security Department must be notified for violations of offenses in this section. If appropriate, local Police will be notified. In response, Dorchester School District Two can assist in providing referrals to, drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, and re-entry programs. For further information contact the school's principal or school counselor.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES AND VIOLATIONS OVERVIEW

- **Possessing or Using Illegal Drugs and Controlled Substances** - Possessing, using, or being under the influence of illegal drugs, controlled substances, or any food item with illegal drugs in it, and/or possessing drug paraphernalia, including, but not limited to, electronic vaping devices containing a controlled substance, pipes, and hand-made devices.
- **Possessing or Using Alcoholic Beverages** - Possessing, using, or being under the influence of alcohol, including any beverage with alcohol content.
- **Possessing or Using Marijuana** - Possessing, using or being under the influence of marijuana, whether prescription, home-grown or street purchased.

VIOLATIONS AND ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

Each SCHSL member school shall adopt reasonable rules and regulations, in line with their school district policies, pertaining to the use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products. The school principal supervises all discipline measures at their building; they can contact the District Athletic Office for additional support or recommendations.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is not provided by the school district for some events. In some cases, the budget provided to the schools for athletic transportation is insufficient to cover all activities. In other cases, depending on the location and nature of other athletic events, District-provided transportation is not practical.

A few examples to follow:

- When teams are comprised of a small number of athletes which does not warrant providing a bus.
- When some events lend themselves to constant rescheduling and makeup due to weather conditions, which does not permit adequate turnaround time to cancel and reorder busses.

As a result, in those circumstances where the district will not provide transportation to such practices or competitions, a student-athlete parent assumes full responsibility for personally transporting their student, or for arranging transportation of their student-athlete, to and from such practices or competitions.

TRAVEL RULES FOR ATHLETES

The following rules will be enforced whenever it is necessary to travel to other schools for athletic contests or to alternate off-campus activity/game sites:

- All athletes must travel to and from athletic contests with transportation provided by the school district, except that an athlete may travel with their own parent if the parent arranges with the coach to transport the athlete in their own vehicles.
- Athletes will remain with their team and under the supervision of their coach when attending any contests.

Misconduct during participation in interscholastic athletic activities will be subject to school disciplinary actions. Student-athletes are direct representatives of their school, community, and family, and should conduct themselves accordingly.

ATTENDANCE REGULATIONS

A student must attend school or an authorized school activity for all scheduled classes on the day of an event/meet to be eligible to compete or practice.

Exceptions may be granted by the principal, or the coach, but illness is not an acceptable excuse.

EQUIPMENT

School equipment checked out by the student-athlete is the student's responsibility. The student-athlete is expected to keep it clean and in good condition. The student-athlete is responsible for lost/stolen school equipment assigned to them. The school district may authorize the use of school equipment during the summer if approved by the building principal/athletic director. All required forms must be completed in advance. Required forms can be obtained from the principal/athletic director upon request.

EJECTIONS

Conduct resulting in ejection or disqualification from an interscholastic contest shall result in the following:

- Disqualification for the remainder of the contest in which the ejection occurred. The student shall remain with the team and the coach is responsible for the student.
- The ejected player is ineligible until they miss the next school contest in that sport at the same level of competition for which the person was ejected. The student-athlete shall not appear in the school uniform, nor sit on the team bench during the suspension period.
- The second ejection in the same sport and season shall result in ineligibility for the remainder of the season of that sport.

ELIGIBILITY

STUDENT ELIBIGLITY REQUIREMENTS PAPERWORK

Prior to participation (including tryouts), a signed ATHLETIC REGISTRATION AND PHYSICAL FORM must be on file in the school. Additional items to note include:

- For each school year the student-athlete must have a physical examination form signed by a doctor after April 1st for the upcoming school year.
- To resume participation following an illness and or injury serious enough to require medical care, a participating student-athlete must present to the school officials a written clearance form from a physician licensed to perform physical examinations.

NOTE: In the event of extended illness/injury, an adequate number of days for reconditioning is recommended prior to return to full competition.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: DISTRICT POLICIES

Student must be in attendance a full day of school on any game date which falls on a school day. Students must reside with their parents, the parent with legal custody, or a court appointed guardian who has acted in such a capacity. Students must not miss practices or games for the purpose of participating in non-school athletic activities without League approval. Students must not accept cash awards in any amount or merchandise or have ever signed a contract with or played for a professional athletic organization.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

A student's athletic eligibility can be adversely affected by:

- Providing misleading or false information relative to factors, which affect eligibility (Loss of one year of eligibility).
- Missing a game or practice to participate in an out-of-school athletic activity.
- Participating in an athletic activity under a false name
- Disruptive behavior during practice and/or contests
- Irregular attendance at school or practice
- Committing and/or aiding or abetting in the commission of any physical abuse or attack upon any person associated with athletic practices or contests.
- Using a school uniform in a non-school athletic event or failure to maintain proper care or return of athletic equipment.
- School disciplinary action (suspension, expulsion, etc.)
- Substance abuse or distribution

All eligibility questions should be referred to the school's athletic director for review.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: 1.0 GPA POLICY

For complete details regarding this policy (including the student's responsibilities) review the SCHSL Handbook.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST (SCHSL)

Before participating, all contestants must be eligible under the rules of the SCHSL. Athletes can use the following checklist, along with their family, coach, or athletic director; unchecked boxes may mean they are NOT eligible, but student will need to verify eligibility with their school. All eligibility questions should be referred to the school's athletic director for review.

I'm officially enrolled in a SCHSL member school.

- If I'm a home school student, I have registered with the school district as a home school student.
- I'm enrolled in at least the minimum number of classes for athletic eligibility, generally five or more classes.
- I received passing grades in five classes in the previous semester.
- I have not changed school districts without a corresponding move of my entire family unit.
- I reside with my family unit in this school district and school service area.
- I have not been enrolled in high school for more than 8 semesters.
- I did not turn 20 years of age before the start of each sport season.
- I'm an amateur in the sports in which I compete interscholastically, and I have not accepted cash, or any award, equipment or prize valued greater than \$500 per year.
- I have had a physical exam within the past 12 months and it, as well as my registration packet, are on file at my school.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

AGE: A high school student-athlete who turns 20 years of age prior to September 1 for Fall Sports, December 1 for Winter Sports and March 1 for Spring Sports is ineligible for interscholastic athletics.

CONCURRENT PARTICIPATION: It is possible to be a part of two teams at the same time, but not recommended. The player must choose a primary sport and a secondary sport. The two head coaches are to work out the player's practice schedule and games. If at any time there is a conflict between the two sports, the player will be forced to choose one. Team sports must always be the primary sport (athlete that may compete as an individual only). It is only fair that all team players practice together.

FALSE INFORMATION: If it's determined that the student/parent/guardian provided the school false information which caused the school to declare the participant eligible, the student will be declared ineligible for interscholastic competition for a period of one (1) year. Sanctions will not be imposed on the school or the team.

NON-SCHOOL PARTICIPATION: During any sports season after joining a school squad, students may participate in non-school athletic activities (except football) provided they do not miss a team practice or scheduled contest. In unusual or unique situations, schools may contact the District Athletic Director to request an exception to this regulation provided the contact and the decision are made in advance.

Athletes who miss participating in a league scheduled event (regular season or playoffs) because of participating in a non-league athletic activity may be ineligible for the remainder of the season. This will be determined by the AD and coach.

RESIDENCE: The place where the family unit has established its home and/or the place where the student is habitually present and to which, when departing, the student intends to return. In the case of residency concerns, communication should be made with District Office.

SEASON LIMITATIONS: After entering or being eligible to enter the seventh grade, a student-athlete shall have six (6) consecutive years of interscholastic eligibility. If the seventh or eighth grade is repeated and such repetition is based upon documented academic deficiencies by the school principal, the repeated year shall not count against the student- athlete's six (6) interscholastic competitive years. After entering or being eligible to enter the ninth grade, a student-athlete shall have four (4) consecutive years of interscholastic eligibility.

TRANSFER STUDENTS: After registering and/or attending a high school, students changing enrollment to/from one school district to another school district or from one high school to another high school within a multiple high school district shall be considered a transferring student.

To be eligible for varsity competition, transferring students must meet the normal residence requirements, or the transferring student requirements, or be granted a waiver under the Dorchester District Two appeal provisions. A student who is ineligible in a member school may not become immediately eligible at another member school without completing the conditions of ineligibility.

NCAA Eligibility Requirements

Most college athletic programs are regulated by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), an organization that has established recruiting and financial aid. The NCAA has three membership divisions: Division I, Division II, and Division III. Institutions are members of one or another of these according to the size and scope of the athletic programs and whether they provide athletic scholarships. Athletes planning to take an official visit to any Division I or Division II institution must be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center. The NCAA Eligibility Center was established as a separate organization by the NCAA member institutions to ensure consistent interpretations of NCAA initial-eligibility requirements for all prospective student athletes at all member institutions. Parents or students may find this information at www.ncaaeligibilitycenter.org. Athletes who want to participate in Division I or Division II sports in college should start the certification process in their junior year (11th) in high school. Check with your school counselor to make sure you are taking the core curriculum that meets NCAA requirements. Also, register to take the SAT or ACT tests as a junior. Submit the Student Release Form (available in the School Counseling Office) to the NCAA Eligibility Center by the beginning of your senior year. Athletic Scholarships Applying for athletic scholarships has become an important area of college preparation because these scholarships are a way of earning tuition in return for your competitive abilities. Whether you're a male or female, interested in the sports at your school, there may be scholarships available for you. At the beginning of your junior year, ask your school counselor to help you make sure you take the required number and mix of academic courses and to inform you of the SAT and ACT score minimums that must be met to play college sports. Also, ask your school counselor about academic requirements, because the NCAA Eligibility Center must certify you, and you must start this process by the end of your junior year.