

STRONGSVILLE CITY SCHOOLS



ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

2023-2024

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EDUCATIONAL-BASED ATHLETICS

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide the student-athletes of Strongsville City Schools with the best possible education-based athletic experience in line with becoming a Model Mustang.



ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT STANDARDS

C- Control your Response- (Press Pause; know your environment; NO BCD)

C- Continue the Excellence- (Earn your reputation; Be Accountable)

C- Courageous Choices (Do what is right and not always popular)

W- W.I.N. The Moment- (What's Important Now?-- Body Language, self- talk, etc.)

R- Relentless Commitment- (Year Round program; Multi-sports; Collaborate; service)

PHILOSOPHY OF THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Athletics are an integral part of the school's program of education to provide experiences that will develop students physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally. We STRONGLY encourage multiple sport student-athletes at all levels.

Participation in athletics is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, the team, the coaches, the community, and the student.

The rules of the Strongsville City Schools (SCS), the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA), and the Greater Cleveland Conference (GCC) shall apply to all interscholastic activities. The building principal shall be held ultimately responsible in all matters pertaining to interscholastic athletics involving the school.

It is our intention to know and follow the rules of the OHSAA, the Conference, and other appropriate governing bodies and of the sports themselves. All those representing Strongsville Schools shall conduct themselves in a manner which is consistent with the letter and spirit of these rules and shall reflect well upon the school, the community, and themselves.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

Reminder to Parents/Guardians: PLEASE check your son's/daughter's schedule to reinforce that they are taking at least five one-credit classes.

To be eligible for athletics at Strongsville High, students must meet the following requirements:

1. Enrolled in school full time for the preceding semester.
2. Must have maintained at least a 2.0 overall GPA for the previous quarter of their sport or during their season if the sport extends for multiple quarters.
3. Enrolled in a minimum of five (5) credits/classes other than courses earning .25 credits for the semester (PE, Targeted Standards, or Math/English Intervention), OR any Audited Course. (This is an Ohio High School Athletic Association requirement). ***At the middle school level, a student must pass at least four (4) classes to be eligible.***
4. Pass the equivalent of at least five (5) credits/classes other than courses earning .25 credits for the semester (PE, Targeted Standards, or Math/English Intervention), OR any Audited Course for the quarter preceding their sport.
5. It is the student's responsibility to maintain eligibility requirements. They must register for sufficient courses to maintain eligibility and notify their counselor that they are an athlete when discussing any possible schedule change.

It is the athlete's responsibility to assure that each quarter he/she has registered for and successfully passed appropriate coursework to maintain eligibility! Eligibility reminders are presented to each potential athlete in the following ways:

6. Statements in Course Selection Guide.
7. Statements made by counselors during the scheduling process.
8. Statement on the Course Selection Sheet.
9. Discussions between coaches and athletes.
10. Materials presented to athletes by the athletic department.

If a student's grades for the quarter preceding his/her sport are less than 2.0,

11. The student and parent/guardian will be notified and a meeting will be held with the coach and Athletic Director.
12. During that meeting a contract will be established.
13. A portion of every contract will include weekly progress reports, which must be completed by the student and returned to the Athletic Office to maintain eligibility.
14. Other stipulations may be mutually agreed upon as a portion of the student's contract to maintain eligibility.
15. The proposed contract will be forwarded home for the parent signature and agreement.

FOR CCP STUDENTS:

Please make sure you are enrolled in a 14 or 16 week CCP course. 8 week CCP courses will not count towards eligibility.

NOTE: *Please make sure you are aware of all the Rules and Regulations of outside Club Teams. Per OHSAA (BYLAW 7.3.1), there are only a certain number of athletes per HS team allowed to play on an out of season team. If you have questions or need clarification on this, please contact the Athletic Department.*

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

The Athletic registration process through final forms includes a form indicating that the School Student Code of Conduct has been read and understood. It requires the signature of the athlete and one parent or guardian. Please make sure this portion has been read and signed.

Coaches will discuss the district Code of Conduct as well as any team specific expectations as it relates to the individual sport at the beginning of the season.

All athletes must have a signed Code of Conduct form on file prior to participation in athletics. The signed form is included in the Final Forms registration process.

Coaches will periodically discuss Codes of Conduct with athletes to avoid misunderstandings.

Athlete removal from practice or contests is a serious matter. Coaches considering such action will communicate with school administration as well as the parents and athlete to share the reason(s) for the removal.

CODE OF CONDUCT PROCEDURES FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

VIOLATIONS OF ANY RULE OR REGULATION OF THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT HANDBOOK MAY RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION, INCLUDING DENIAL OF PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITY (See Student Handbook pages 24-28)

Overall Code of Conduct rules and regulations will be published in the student handbook. Violations of any student code of conduct as presented in the student handbook may result in disciplinary action, including denial of participation in the activity. Individual activity or team rules and regulations can be put in place by the Head Coach of the program. Each participant of the extra-curricular activity must be made aware of these rules and regulations.

A first violation of the athletic code of conduct or the high school student code of conduct **COULD** result in a suspension equal to 20% of the total games in a season. (i.e. football season is 10 games, so the suspension shall be for 2 games.) Other consequences or school related consequences **MAY** also take the place of a 20% penalty.

1. If there are not enough contests remaining in the season to serve a potential 20% penalty, the suspension shall carry-over into the student's next sport season, or to the following year until the suspension has been fully met.

A repeated violation of the high school student code of conduct, **MAY** result in removal from the team and a denial in any other athletic participation for the remainder of the school year.

Only the high school principal can overturn an athletic suspension.

As a result of our athletic philosophy, it is expected that all student participants in interscholastic athletics will have the additional responsibility of maintaining a higher standard of personal and ethical behavior twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is a significant student responsibility at all grade levels. Many studies correlate regular attendance with success in school. Regular attendance means that the academic learning process is not interrupted, less time is spent on make-up assignments, and students benefit from participation and

interaction with others in class. Many important lessons are learned through active participation in classroom and other school activities that cannot be replaced by individual study.

Half day of attendance is required to participate in an after school athletic or extracurricular activity unless excused by the appropriate administrator or athletic director.

When a parent, guardian, or other person having care of a student has failed to initiate a telephone call or other communication notifying the school or building administration of the student's excused or unexcused absence within 120 minutes after the beginning of the school day, the attendance officer or designee for each school building shall make at least one (1) attempt to contact the parent, guardian, or other person having care of any student who is recorded as absent without legitimate excuse within 120 minutes after the beginning of each school day by a method designated by the Superintendent in accordance with Ohio law (see AG 5200).

COMMUNICATION

Communication between coaches and athletes and/or parents will be strictly through the district Remind App, district email or through the Final Forms platform. Student-athletes and/or parents should not be texting any coaches individually.

SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

Athletic participation is a privilege and not a right. As part of that privilege, student-athletes acknowledge they are representing their school, community, and team at all times, including while participating or not; this includes representation on social media. Social media is an effective tool when used responsibly. Strongsville High School and the athletic department cannot and will not monitor every instance of social media. However, student-athletes should be aware that there is no expectation on their part of privacy when interacting on social media. Therefore, we expect our student-athletes to hold themselves to a high standard and not engage in inappropriate activities, including but not limited to cyber-bullying, trash talk, posting items with inappropriate language and/or images, criticism of coaches, officials, or school administrators, etc.

Derogatory remarks, comments, or pictures posted on any social media site or made by a student toward anyone, including adults, will not be tolerated. This also includes derogatory statements, pictures, and videos made and sent via email, text, or posted to any social media website and/or an app-based program. Any student found in violation of this policy **may** face disciplinary action. The coach and administration will determine appropriate consequences, which may include denial of participation or dismissal from the extracurricular. Final determination will be made by the administration.

RISK OF INJURY

In spite of the benefits of athletics, participation is not without some inherent dangers. Despite the efforts of manufacturers to improve the safety of their equipment and the efforts of the coaches to be properly trained, injuries do, and will continue to occur.

As a result, we believe that it is imperative for our students and parents to be fully aware of the possible injuries inherent in athletic competition. The parents' signature acknowledging the risks in no way deprives them of any legal rights – it merely attests to their understanding of the possible dangers.

TRANSPORTATION

All athletes are expected to be transported by school bus, except where prior arrangements may have been made through the Athletic Office. Students are expected to follow all rules within the code of conduct while riding to and from athletic events. The head coach or assistant coach where applicable will always accompany the athletes.

RETURN TO PLAY PROCEDURES

1. In case of an injury where an athlete is removed from the game for a period of time for observation, the athlete can only return to play when released by the Licensed Athletic Trainer and/or Team Physician.
2. The Licensed Athletic Trainer will briefly explain the athlete's condition to the head coach and when the athlete can expect to return to the activity.
3. If the Licensed Athletic Trainer is unable to inform the athlete's coach of the athlete's condition, the student aide will ask the coach to contact the Licensed Athletic Trainer and/or Team Physician for information.
4. When an athlete is deemed ready to return to the activity, the Licensed Athletic Trainer and/or Team Physician will explain to the head coach and athlete what they will be looking for and observing for future injuries. The athlete's protective equipment will be returned at this time.
5. In case of a potential injury in which the athlete is not to return to activity, all protective equipment will be removed and steps 1-4 above will be followed.
6. If an athlete has been seen by a physician due to injury and/or illness, he/she is required to give the athletic trainer a written release to return to athletics. When appropriate, a written rehabilitation and treatment program should also be given to the athletic trainer.

SPORTS REGISTRATION/FORMS

FINAL FORMS

All required athletic forms are housed on [Final Forms](#). [Click here](#) for directions on how to register/sign-up for Final Forms. Forms within the Final Forms software include:

1. Pre-Participation Physical Examination

- a. This must be current and signed by a doctor, the student, and his/her parent/guardian. An accompanying note may be required from a specialist for some conditions. This must be on file prior to any practice participation.

2. Athletic Participation Forms

- a. All portions must be completed and signed in appropriate places by the student and parent/guardian. Blank forms are available in the Athletic Office. These must be on file prior to any practice participation. The athletic participation forms include:
 - i. **Parental consent** for student participation in interscholastic athletics at Strongsville High School.
 - ii. **Athletic residence affidavit** acknowledging residency in the city of Strongsville.
 - iii. **Insurance waiver** form.
 - iv. **Emergency medical** authorization.

3. Code of Conduct Form

- a. The athletic extra-curricular and co-curricular code of conduct agreement must be submitted or on file in the Activities Office prior to participation.

FEES

FEES

1. Athletic Participation Fees (including Cheerleading) and Athletic Trainer Fees will be assessed as directed by the Strongsville Board of Education. (www.strongsvilleathletics.org under **MORE**)
2. The amount of the Participation Fee will be approved annually by the Strongsville Board of Education.
3. Athletic Trainer Fees are a one-time annual fee approved by the Strongsville Board of Education.
4. Free and reduced lunch participants are not exempt.
5. Families are responsible to notify the Athletic Department personnel if they qualify for the family cap (Participation Fee). This form is available through the building Athletic Department.

6. Payments may be made directly to the building Athletic Department or given to coaches.
7. Receipts will be issued for cash payments; check payments are preferred.
8. Payments must be received prior to actual participation in/at an athletic contest.
9. Payments for combined fees (Participation and Trainers) as well as for multiple participants will be accepted.
10. Clear identification of student and sport program is required with all payments.
11. Refunds will not be processed for partial seasons as the result of injury, team discipline, or voluntary removal from a program.
12. **ALL PRIOR YEAR FEES MUST BE PAID PRIOR TO ANY ATHLETE PARTICIPATING IN A PRACTICE OR COMPETITION.**