

SWEET HOME

PANTHERS

Parent/Guardian, Student, and Coach Athletic Handbook and Code of Conduct Sweet Home Central School District Athletics

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students & Coaches:

The purpose of this handbook and letter is to explain the expectations of the Sweet Home interscholastic program to our student athletes and parents/guardians. With the increasing complexities in carrying out an ever-growing athletic program, it is essential for the involved parties to be aware of all policies, procedures and responsibilities.

Participating in Sweet Home Athletics is a privilege, not a right. When a student chooses to participate in an athletic program at Sweet Home, it is assumed that a commitment has been made to represent the school and the community in a positive manner. All student athletes are expected to follow all rules and regulations set forth by the Sweet Home School District and the Commissioner of Education.

The main goal of the Sweet Home Athletic program is to provide a competitive atmosphere, where student athletes are encouraged to develop and demonstrate competence, character, civility and citizenship. Success of a program may not necessarily be measured in wins and losses. It is our hope that your son/daughter enjoys his/her athletic experience at Sweet Home and positive memories are created that will last a lifetime.

If you should have any questions regarding the athletic program, please feel free to contact me at 250-1207. Go Panthers!

Regards,

Mr. Christopher Schiumo
Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics
Sweet Home Central School District
1901 Sweet Home Rd.
Amherst, NY 14228



Sweet Home Central School District of Amherst and Tonawanda

Sweet Home Athletics Department
1901 Sweet Home Road • Amherst, New York 14228
(716) 250-1207

Dear Parent,

Your child has expressed a desire to participate in our interscholastic program. It is important that you and your child understand the rules and regulations of the program and agree to abide by the rules established by the District for the benefit of those who participate both as players, students and representatives of their community.

*Mr. Christopher Schiumo
Director of Health, Physical Education & Athletics*

Sweet Home Athletics Rules, Regulations, and Code of Conduct:

- No student may begin practice without a **current physical examination, completed parent/guardian permission form in addition to Final Forms registration**. Under no circumstances is an athlete allowed to participate in an interscholastic contest until a current physical examination has been approved and reviewed by the school nurse or athletic trainer.

- A student must attend school in order to participate at practice or athletic events after school or in the evenings. Students who are late must arrive in time to attend at least 50% of their scheduled classes.

If on Friday, a student is absent or late and doesn't make 50% of his/her classes, they are not eligible to practice or compete in an athletic event on Friday, but would be eligible for Saturday. The attendance requirements can be waived for legal excuses, such as funerals, doctor and dentist appointments, or any school sponsored activity. Legal excuses can only be waived by a school administrator.

- All athletes are required to participate in the full physical education program throughout the year. Student athletes must participate in physical education in order to practice or play in their game that afternoon. Music lessons, field trips, excused absences, doctor's appointment, college visitation, or a funeral are legal/acceptable reasons for missing class. Such excuses must be approved in writing by the principal or designee.

- Any athlete caught stealing from the Athletic Department, athletic team, and/or school will be automatically dismissed from the team.
- The possession and/or use of drugs, alcoholic beverages or tobacco (including and not limited e-cigarettes/vaping products) will result in the following:
 - First Offense – dismissal from participation in any athletic contest for two weeks, but must practice. The athlete is given a second chance if they make practices and have counseling for those two weeks. If the athlete fails to go to counseling and practice, they are removed from the team for the remainder of the season.
 - Second Offense – automatic dismissal from the team for the remainder of the season.
- Any athlete suspended from an athletic team has the right to appeal within 48 hours of dismissal. The appeal committee will consist of the Athletic Director, Administrator and one out-of-season coach.
- Any athlete suspended (including ISS and OSS) from school (in or out of school) may not attend practice or compete that day.
- Athletes are expected to use school transportation to and from away athletic contests unless special arrangements are made between parent and coach in advance.
- All players will sit with their own team during the entire athletic event and will not leave the site of an athletic activity without permission from their coach.
- Any athlete in possession of any school property from a school athletic team will be suspended from participation in another interscholastic athletic activity until all equipment or uniforms have been returned or paid for.
- A player who misses practice during the season for more than a period of five consecutive days must have a minimum of two days' practice for reconditioning purposes prior to participation in a game or scrimmage.

Legal excuses from practice will be limited to:

1. College Visitation
2. Family vacations that the athlete must attend at parent's request
3. Emergency situations (doctor, dentist, court appearances)
4. Sickness or injury
5. Funerals
6. Religious obligations
7. Special examinations or tests
8. Overlapping seasons
9. Afterschool academic help (late for practice)
10. School sponsored event (field trip, music trip)

- A player who misses practice or an athletic contest and doesn't have a legal excuse is suspended from the next athletic contest, but must practice. A player with two cuts from practice may be dismissed from the team.
- All legal excuses must be submitted to the coach and approved whenever possible prior to the missing of practice. The Athletic Department realizes that unusual situations arise whereas the athlete must miss practice. It is our responsibility to make sure that all athletes returning from an absence have a period of reconditioning before participation.
- Athletes may not change their sport choice after the first week of each season.

Sportsmanship:

The conduct of all athletes on and off the field is expected to be sportsmanlike. Such actions as fighting, taunting, vulgar language, harassment or any hazing type behavior and a disrespectful attitude are not acceptable at any time.

1. Any athlete fighting before, during or after an athletic contest will be suspended from the next athletic contest and are subject for additional consequences as determined by school administrators. If there is a second offense, the student is dismissed from the team for the duration of the season.
2. If fight occurs during the last contest, the penalty carries over to the next sport in the following season. If it is an underclassman, the penalty carries over to the next sport, and if at the end of the school year, the penalty carries to the first sport the following school year.
3. Any athlete taunting, using vulgar language and being disrespectful to opponents, coaches, officials, and/or spectators during an athletic contest will be taken out of the event by the coach and will not be allowed to return back into the athletic event.
4. An athlete may be removed from a team for conduct unbecoming of a student athlete as determined by the administration and/or coach.

Removing a Player from an Athletic Team:

In the event, that a Sweet Home student-athlete needs to be removed from an athletic team the following actions should be communicated to players, parents, and the Athletic Director:

Step #1: Coaches must contact the parents/guardians of the athlete(s) and then communicate to the Athletic Director of disciplinary actions that are taken to remedy or correct the athlete(s) behaviors that are deemed to be detrimental to the team and to the Sweet Home Athletic Department. These communications should be documented by the coach in writing or via email and shared with the Athletic Director if this ultimately leads to a removal of an athlete.

Step #2: If in the event, after previous discipline has occurred and has been communicated by the coach to the athlete(s) and the behaviors continue to exist, coaches do have the right to remove an athlete(s) from their team/roster for that season. The Athletic Department expects our coaches to communicate directly to the Athlete, to the Parent/Guardian and to the Athletic Director if such removal occurs. It is also required that the athlete return all uniforms, equipment, etc. to their coach or to the athletic office.

Athletics at Sweet Home is a privilege and not a right to represent our School District, our Community, and our Alumni of Sweet Home.



Sweet Home Athletics Code of Ethics:

Ethics have been defined as a system of basic principles of proper action. Applied to athletics, ethics imply a standard of character in which the public has trust and confidence. The essential elements of any ethical code are honesty and integrity.

Code of Ethics for Athletic Director:

The Athletic Director:

- Strives to develop and maintain a comprehensive athletic program which seeks the highest development of all participants and which respects the individual dignity of every athlete or coach.
- Considers the well-being of the entire student body as fundamental in all decisions and actions.
- Supports the principle of due process and protects the civil and human rights of all individuals.
- Organizes, directs and promotes an interscholastic athletic program that is in harmony with and contributes to the total school program.
- Cooperates with staff and school administration in establishing, implementing and supporting school policies.
- Acts impartially in the execution of basic policies, and the enforcement of the league, and state high school association rules and regulations.
- Avoids using the position for personal gain or influence.
- Seeks to improve the professional status and effectiveness of the interscholastic athletic administrator through participation in local, state, and national in-service programs.
- Commits to high standards of ethics, sportsmanship, and personal conduct on the part of the administrator, members of the coaching staff, and the athletes representing their school.

Code of Ethics for Coaches:

As a professional educator and leader, the school coach will:

- Exemplify the highest moral character as a role model for young people.
- Recognize and reinforce each team member's individual worth and self-image.

- Strive to develop the qualities of leadership, initiative, sportsmanship, teamwork, and good judgement in each team member.
- Communicate and interpret program goals and objectives to parents and community.
- Provide a safe environment for practice and competition.
- Gain an awareness of the importance of prevention, care and treatment of athletic injuries in collaboration with our athletic trainers.
- Exhibit a rational perspective on winning or losing with athletes and spectators.
- Respect the integrity and judgement of game officials.
- Teach and abide by the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
- Build and maintain ethical relationships with coaches and administrators in our school and with the league and section.
- Strive for excellence in coaching skills and techniques through professional improvement.
- Promote personal fitness and good nutrition.
- Encourage a healthy respect for the overall athletic program and its vital role in education.

Code of Ethics for Parents/Guardians:

It is understood that parents play a vital role in the development of the student athletes and the success of the Sweet Home School District Athletic Program. To that end, parents/guardians are encouraged to:

- Be a positive role model through their own actions to make sure that their child has the best possible athletic experience.
- Be a “team” fan, not a “my kid only” fan.
- Weigh what their children say, keeping in mind they tend to give a singular perspective on events.
- Show respect for opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups.
- Be respectful of all officials’ decisions.
- Parents/guardians should not instruct their children before, during or immediately after a game. It may conflict with the coach’s plans and strategies.
- Praise student athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, athletes and people.
- Gain an understanding and appreciation for the rules of the contest.
- Recognize and show appreciation for the outstanding play by either team.
- Help their children learn that success is experience in the development of their skills and they can feel good about themselves regardless of the outcome of one particular contest.
- Talk with coaches in appropriate manner, at the proper time and place. Realize that immediately before or after a contest is not the appropriate time to discuss concerns with a coach. Follow that chain of command: speak with a coach before speaking to the athletic director or any other school administrator.
- Please reinforce our alcohol, tobacco, and drug-free policy by refraining from the use of any such substances before and during athletic contests. The use of any drug, tobacco,

or alcohol products is forbidden on school grounds as per New York State Education Law.

- Remember that a school athletic event is a privilege to observe and attend.

Code of Ethics for Spectators:

Proper spectator conduct is an important aspect of the school athletic program. It is desired that the Sweet Home Central School District spectators will:

- Maintain and exhibit poise, self-discipline, and restraint during and after the contest.
- Treat the visiting team and spectators as guests, being courteous and fair.
- Be a courteous visitor at other schools.
- Avoid actions which will offend the individual athlete, coaches, officials, and spectators.
- Accept the judgement of the coach.
- Respect the property of the school.
- Display good sportsmanship by being modest in victory and gracious in defeat.
- Pay respect to both teams as they enter competition.
- Appreciate the good plays by both teams.
- Show respect for an injured player.
- Regard the officials as guests and treat them as such. Accept their decisions as final.
- Understand the rules of the sport in order to fully enjoy the contest.
- Consider it a privilege to encourage everyone to live up to the spirit of the rules of fair play and sportsmanship.

PARENT/GUARDIAN/COACH RELATIONSHIP

Parenting and coaching can be both extremely challenging and rewarding. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to children. As parents/guardians, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD'S COACH:

- Philosophy of the coach.
- Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the squad.
- Locations and times of all practices and contest.
- Team requirements, i.e., fees, special equipment, off-season equipment.
- Procedure should your child be injured during participation.
- Discipline that results in the denial and/or removal of your child's participation.

COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
- Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your children become involved in programs at Sweet Home High School, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES:

- The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
- Ways to improve fundamental skills concerning your child.
- Concerns about your child's behavior.

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professional. They make judgement decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those on this page, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

- Playing time.
- Team strategy.
- Play calling.
- Other student/athletes.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent/guardian. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

Procedures to follow to discuss a concern with a coach:

1. Please contact your student-athletes coach after the "24 hour cooling off" period via email or by phone.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, contact the Athletic Department at 250-1207. We will arrange a meeting for you.

Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

THE NEXT STEP.... What Can a Parent/Guardian Do If the Meeting with The Coach Did Not Provide a Satisfactory Resolution?

1. Call Athletic Secretary, to set up an appointment with the Athletic Director, Chris Schiumo. The parent/guardian, coach and Athletic Director will meet to discuss the problem.
2. At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined.

Parents are encouraged to discuss issues and problems with the Athletic Director. However, if a parent has specific complaints regarding a coach, then the coach must have the opportunity to be present to meet with the parent.

Sweet Home Central School District Athletic Philosophy and Vision

Athletic Philosophy:

Sweet Home Athletics supports and fully adopts the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA), Section VI Interscholastic Athletics, and the Erie County Interscholastic Conference (ECIC) philosophies and thus, shapes its statements of philosophy by combining these philosophies of these programs into our Athletic Mission and Vision.

The purpose of Sweet Home Central School District's athletic program is to promote the education and development of students through interscholastic athletic participation. Our school is committed to high standards and the principles of athletics that serve as an essential part of the total educational program offered by the Sweet Home Central School District.

The Sweet Home Athletic Program is a part of the district's total educational program and mission of: ***“Every Student, One Community, Ready for the Future”***. Athletics is a valuable educational experience that helps to develop and promote character, citizenship, civility, and competence in all of its participants. A well-run athletic program results in increased school pride, increased community pride, improved citizenship, and a better positive overall school experience for everyone involved.

Sweet Home Athletic Goals:

- Promote, model, and provide an opportunity for the development of a healthy and active lifestyle.
- Foster a positive attitude toward participation; build a sense of fair play and sportsmanship.

- Provide quality instruction for technical skill development, assist student athletes to set realistic personal and team goals for performance and accept personal responsibility for team play.
- Guide social, emotional and physical development by providing an environment that nurtures and challenges students to achieve their maximum personal growth.
- Create opportunities that encourage all students to develop skills in the areas of leadership, self-discipline and citizenship.
- Promote a sense of responsibility as an ambassador of our school district.
- Offer guidance that supplements and enriches the Sweet Home scholastic program.

Athletic Vision:

Sweet Home Central School District fosters the belief that the athletic program is integral to the educational and social life of our middle and high school students, having benefits for participants and non-participants. The mission of athletics is to provide ample opportunities for students to apply and improve their athletic skills through competition. The welfare and development of the student athlete is foremost in ensuring the educational value of the program.

The Vision of Sweet Home Athletics is to pursue excellence in all aspects of life through participation in a high-quality athletic program. We are committed to the fundamental ideals of respect, responsibility, and integrity. It is a program in which the development of the whole person is realized through athletic participation and competition, where life-long learning occurs as a result. The Sweet Home Athletic program is a vehicle by which our students can achieve academic excellence and become positive contributors to society.

Varsity Athletic Program:

Varsity competition is the highest level of competition. Our goal is to be as competitive as possible. The Varsity teams are a culmination of the Junior Varsity and Modified programs moving up through the course of grade levels. Normally, seniors and juniors make up the majority of rosters. Occasionally, sophomore student athletes and at times freshman student athletes may be selected on the team providing that evidence of advanced levels of physical development, athletic skill and appropriate social and emotional development is demonstrated.

Team size at the Varsity level is sometimes limited. The number of participants on any given team is a function of those needed to conduct an effective and meaningful practice and to play competitively in the contest. It is vital that each team member has a role and be informed of its individual roles in pursuit of the team's goals. While contest participation over the course of a season is desirable, a specified amount of playing time at the Varsity level is never guaranteed. Tryouts are what they are, an audition, and a platform to demonstrate the required athletic skills for a position on the team. Tryouts are seasonal, and student athletes should come to tryouts prepared for competition, there is no entitlement for returning players belonging on a team.

The varsity coach is the leader of that sport's program and determines the system of instruction and strategy for that program. The communication among the modified, junior

varsity and varsity programs is the responsibility of the varsity coach. Preparing to win, striving for victory in each contest and working to reach the group's and individual's maximum potential are worthy goals of a varsity level team.

Junior Varsity Athletic Program (JV):

The junior varsity level is intended for those who display the potential of continued development into productive varsity level performers. Although team membership varies according to the structure of each program, sophomores and freshmen occupy the majority of roster positions. In certain situations, underclassmen who are expected to make contributions at the varsity level will be considered for junior varsity participation. In some instances, seventh and eighth grades that have passed the Athletic Placement Process (APP) may be considered for JV teams.

At this level, athletes are expected to have visibly committed themselves to the program, team and continued self-development. To this end, increased emphasis is placed on physical conditioning, refinement of fundamental skills, elements and strategies of team play in addition to socio-emotional development. Junior varsity programs work toward achieving a balance between continued team and player development and striving for victory. The outcome of the contest becomes a consideration at this level.

The realization that practice sessions are important is a premise that is vital to a successful junior varsity team and player. For all team members, some contest participation will exist over the course of a season, however, a specified amount of playing time is never guaranteed. Participants at this level are preparing themselves for the six-day-a-week commitment that is expected at the varsity level. While contests and practices are rarely held on holidays and Sundays, practice sessions are sometimes scheduled during school vacation periods. With the goal of becoming a varsity athlete clearly in sight, a high level of dedication and commitment is expected at the junior varsity level.

Modified Athletic Program:

This program is available to all students in the seventh and eighth grades. Sport activities offered are determined by the existence of leagues, student interest, and the relationship to the high school program. At this level, the focus is on continued learning of various skills and game rules, an expansion on the fundamentals of team play, continued social and emotional growth, and an emphasis on healthy competition.

At the modified level, cutting of student/athletes is not our desire, and the one thing that all coaches dislike about their positions. However, if the number of students trying out for a team creates a situation that is difficult to manage and poses a safety problem or is problematic because of facility considerations, reducing team size may be necessary. Ultimately, the number of teams and size of the team in any sport will be determined by:

1. Teams in the Erie County Interscholastic Conference (ECIC), which we participate.
2. Suitable indoor or outdoor game and practice facilities.
3. Support from the District and Board of Education

In order for the desired development of the adolescent athlete and team to occur, practice sessions are vital. The New York State Public High School Athletic Association publishes regulations by which practice sessions are governed. The modified program requires a minimum of a 5-day a week commitment with practices and/or contests occasionally scheduled for Saturdays. Opportunities for meaningful contest participation for each team member will exist over the course of a season.

Intramural Program:

The intramural program is intended to provide students with opportunities to participate in competitive sporting events and activities at an age appropriate level and in a manner that allows the greatest amount of participation. Our intramural program provides an initial involvement in school related competitive sports for sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students. The Intramural program exists at our Middle School.

The intramural program, particularly in the early middle school years, focuses on teaching the fundamentals of sportsmanship, team participation, and athletic competition in a setting that allows participation among students with a broad range of athletic ability. While the intramural program is designed to assist with athletic development, skill development, and a basic understanding of various sports and activities (especially at the early stages), it is also aimed at encouraging student participation in recreational sporting events.

Athletic/Academic Eligibility Policy:

Philosophy: The main objective of the Sweet Home Central School District is to provide the best possible education for each student commensurate with the student's abilities. In addition, we recognize that a varied and comprehensive extracurricular program plays a vital role in the total development of the student. Through these activities, the student learns self-discipline, leadership, and a spirit of cooperation; at the same time, such activities allow the student to participate in and develop activities of interest. We cannot forget, however, that the attainment of academic skills is of primary importance. It is our belief that a student must maintain satisfactory academic performance in order to be eligible for participation in extracurricular activities.

#1. Determining Minimum Course Credit Requirements:

- The first test for eligibility is to determine if a particular student has earned the minimum number of course credits prior to the beginning of a cohort year.
- Student Services shall provide a list of all students (sorted by cohort year) who fail to meet the minimum standard for eligibility to the building on or before August 21.
- The building principal shall make course credit determinations on all transfer students.
- All students failing to meet the minimum course requirements will be determined ineligible

for that school year. The building principal will issue a letter to explain determinations for course credit.

Cohort Year:	Minimum Credits:
Cohort Year 1 (Freshman):	0 Credits
Cohort Year 2 (Sophomore):	4.75 Credits
Cohort Year 3 (Junior):	10 Credits
Cohort Year 4 (Senior):	16 Credits

#2. Determining Course Failures:

On the 4th week and 9th week of each Marking Period, a list will be generated by Student Services and the Athletic Department identifying any student **failing two or more courses**. **At the 5th and 10th week of each marking period a final eligibility list will be generated.** Any student appearing on the 5 and 10-week lists will be deemed ineligible for that week and will remain ineligible and on academic probation until we re-check eligibility status each Friday throughout the 5 and 10-week check points.

1. These students will be declared ineligible to participate in games or contests. The period of ineligibility will continue thru Friday of that current week.
2. Such students will be placed into an Academic Recovery Program (Academic Achievement Center). Students must attend AAC during the period of ineligibility! If students do not attend AAC during their available periods (lunch, study hall), they are not allowed to practice that day.

Ineligible students may attempt to become eligible during the week by improving their grades to 65% or above per the policy. If on Friday when grades are re-checked, students have become **eligible**, they may resume contest participation. If the students on Friday are deemed still to be **ineligible (failing two or more courses)**, they will then be required to continue their attendance at AAC for the next week. Eligibility status for those students that are deemed ineligible will be re-checked every Friday for that specific marking period.

#3. Notification of Status/Initiating Academic Recovery Program:

Participants in Interscholastic Athletics:

1. The Athletic Director will distribute the names of the students declared ineligible to all affected coaches. Coaches will notify affected athletes of their participation status.

Bus Transportation:

All school rules will be enforced on buses. Team members are expected to travel with their team to games. Athletes are allowed to travel home with parents/guardians, if written approval is given to the coach at the game site, and the parent/guardian is present. The coach cannot grant permission for a student to ride with anyone other than the parent/guardian. Any other arrangements must be made with the Athletic Director/Principal prior to the event.

NYSPHSAA Rules and Eligibility:

- An athlete must be a student of the Sweet Home Central School District and reside in the school district. Each student-athlete must be taking at least four subjects and physical education for eligibility to participate. A student attending an alternative education program may represent only the school district that they reside in. Students who have completed graduation requirements are not eligible.
- The student shall be eligible for interscholastic competition until his/her 19 birthday. If a student reaches age 19 on or after July 1, the student may continue to participate in all sports for that year as long as they have not exceeded their four years (eight semesters) of eligibility.
- A pupil shall be eligible for senior high competition in each sport during four consecutive seasons of each sport after entry into ninth grade. The Superintendent can make an appeal for an extension of athletic eligibility if it can be shown that a student's failure to enter one or more seasons of a sport was caused by illness, accident or other circumstances beyond the control of the student.

Private Health Care Provider (HCP):

Any athlete under treatment by an HCP must have written permission from his/her HCP before the athlete can return to active participation.

RISKS: The athletic program is conducted, first and foremost, with the safety of its participants in mind. Student-athletes and parents/guardians must be aware that certain risks of injury are inherent in athletic participation. Although not probable, accidents such as head injuries, paralysis or even death may occur.

Health Examination:

After the HCP gives clearance to participate, student athletes must receive medical clearance from the school nurse or athletic trainer before they may practice or try-out for a team.

Physical exams must be on file and are considered current for 12 continuous months. Student athletes are required to obtain a current physical if the previous physical date expires before or

during the upcoming sport season.

All student athletes and their parents must complete and sign the Parent Permission Form/Health History Form. This is utilized for emergency information prior to each sport season. The school nurse and athletic trainer will review the information to ensure safe participation.

Students must get a sport physical from the SHCSD Medical Director or delegate during scheduled physical times or from their private HCP. Sports physicals are good for one calendar year.

Insurance:

Unfortunately, injuries sometimes occur. Any time a student is injured in school or at school activities, an accident form will be filled out and filed by the school nurse or athletic trainer. Medical bills are the responsibility of the student's parent/guardian.

Family Vacation:

When parents/guardians and students choose to take their family vacations during any sport season, it must be understood that the time missed by the athlete can affect team chemistry and personal conditioning. Athletes who miss practices or competition for any reason may have their position or playing time adjusted.

Concerns, Questions, Issues:

Any student-athlete or parent/guardian who has a concern or problem with any aspect of their athletic experience is encouraged to communicate with the individual coach. However, please do not approach a coach when everybody's emotions are "running high" – i.e. right before or right after a contest. Do not call the coach at home, but contact him/her at school and leave a message with the best time to reach you. Please do not let a problem that is of concern go on for a long period of time before addressing it. Most times a conversation with the coach will help to clear up the problem quickly. If after your conversation with the coach you wish to discuss it further, please call the Athletic Secretary to make an appointment to discuss the matter with the Coach and Athletic Director.

School Information:

Nickname: Panthers
Conference: ECIC

Colors: Old Gold and Navy
Section: NYSPHSAA: Section VI

High School Main Office: 250-1217
Athletic Office: 250-1207
Transportation: 250-1435

High School Student Services: 250-1216
High School Nurse: 250-1205
Athletic Trainers: 250-1321

Athletic Department Website:

<http://sweethomeschools.org/District/Department/2-Athletics>

Follow Sweet Home Athletics on Twitter:

@SHCSDAthletics

Acknowledgement:

An acknowledgement, signed by the athlete and parent(s)/guardian(s), where the athlete, parent(s)/guardian(s) & coach agree to uphold the principles of this athletic handbook must be returned to the coach in order to participate in the Sweet Home CSD Athletic Program

WE ARE

