

SONORAN TRAILS Middle School



STUDENT-PARENT
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

Welcome to Sonoran Trails Athletics:

We consider the athletic program to be an integral part of the total school program. Athletic competition contributes to a person's physical, mental and emotional well-being and interscholastic athletics benefits the student, school and community.

Participation in extra-curricular activities such as athletics can yield many benefits. You will meet people and make new friends, exercise your body, improve your athletic skills, build character through a variety of experiences, learn teamwork and cooperate with your coach/teachers in a different atmosphere.

Through your participation in the program we hope that you will be committed to the athletic ideals of teamwork, good sportsmanship and personal improvement, achievement of success and enjoyment of competition.

We will continue to strive to make our program a positive part of the total educational process for our student participants. We want the Sonoran Trails athletic program to build a tradition of fair play, competitive teams and dedicated coaches.

Good wishes from the entire school community in your efforts to participate in our extra-curricular sports program. Regardless of the results, we hope that your performance will be one that we can all take pride in. Be loyal to yourself and your family. Work hard in the classroom and in the sport you have made a commitment. Success is sure to follow.

Sincerely,

Dave Boggs, Principal 480-272-8605

Jenn Reyes, Vice Principal 480-272-8607

Don Larson, A.D. 480-272-8620



Sonoran Trails Middle School Athletic Handbook

Fall Sports

Girls Softball 7
Girls Softball 8

Robotics (all year)
Cheer & POM

Boys Baseball 7
Boys Baseball 8

Winter Sports

Girls Volleyball 7
Girls Volleyball 8

Wrestling
Cross Country*
Cheer & POM

Boys Volleyball 7
Boys Volleyball 8

Spring Sports

Girls Basketball 7
Girls Basketball 8

Track & Field*

Boys Basketball 7
Boys Basketball 8

*Denotes a non-cut sport that is a combined 7th and 8th grade team.

Seventh grade students will not be eligible to try out for an 8th grade team. (The only exception would be if there were not enough 8th graders to field a team).

Participation/Athletic Clearance

There are five forms that need to be turned in to the front office as part of the athletic clearance procedure. All student-athletes must complete the following before practicing or participating.

- Athletic Emergency Information Form
- Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation Form
- Pre-Participation Physical Examination complete with medical doctor signature (Must be AIA form) Physicals completed after March 1 will be acceptable for the following school year.
- Concussion Statement and Acknowledgement Form
- Athletic Handbook signatures (page 6).

All athletic clearance forms will be kept on file in the Athletic Director's office. Coaches are responsible for keeping a copy of the Athletic Emergency Information Forms for all practices and games. All forms can be found on the Sonoran Trails Athletics webpage.

Fees

The athletic programs offered at Sonoran Trails are funded through a parent supported pay to participate program with an athletic fee of \$180.00 per season. The Athletic Fee Form along with the \$180.00 fee (may be Tax Credit) must be paid after making a team and before the first regular season game, meet or match.

Eligibility

Grade checks will be performed every week (Monday) during scheduled sport seasons in the athletics department. Students who are failing one or more classes, or have a grade point average (GPA) below 2.0 in a specific scheduled one week cycle, will be ineligible for that week (Monday-Saturday) in order to focus on academic responsibilities. Students can re-establish academic eligibility prior to the end of the one week cycle by presenting a signed print out reflecting the improved grade from the teacher(s) in question and demonstrating improvement to a 2.0 GPA. Failing grades include those which are earned as a result of excessive tardiness or absences. If a student-athlete is ineligible for **more than two weeks** (not necessarily two weeks in a row) they may be dismissed from the team.

Any athlete who has an excused absence the day before a game/meet will still be eligible to participate. However, the playing time will be left up to each coach's discretion, as there may be other factors that determine the level of participation. Athletes must also make sure they attend school for at least half of the school day to be eligible for team practice or game.

All athletes must practice at least two weeks (8 practice days) with the team before they are eligible to participate in a contest. This particularly includes any athletes coming off injuries at the start of a season or those who are new to the district. Students who are new to the district and arrive after the tryouts will have an opportunity to try out and make a team as long as it is before mid-season.

Code of Conduct

Our entire Athletic Department and Administration is committed to enforcing the Code of Conduct. Playing for the Stingers is a privilege, not a right. In accordance with the Code of Conduct, no member of a Sonoran Trails athletic team will:

A. Substance Abuse: Knowingly use, attempt to use, possess, sell, distribute, or assist any other student in the use of the following:

1. Tobacco/tobacco products
2. Alcoholic beverages
3. Any form of controlled substance/drugs, look-a-like drugs/drug paraphernalia, other than those prescribed by a physician for that student; or
4. Performance-enhancement drugs or performance-enhancement drug paraphernalia.

B. Behavior: Exhibit any behavior that the Athletic Department or District Administration considers detrimental to the athlete's team or school. Some examples of inappropriate behavior include, but are not limited to: illegal acts, insubordination, unsportsmanlike conduct, theft, fighting, vandalism, plagiarism, intentionally lying to school officials, falsifying information/signatures on permission or eligibility forms, hazing, bullying, or intimidating acts.

* Upon any school disciplinary action, or law related offense, a student will be automatically suspended according to the appropriate offense number and category.

SUSPENSION: If an athlete is suspended from school for any reason he/she will not be eligible for practice or a contest until after the conclusion of the suspension. Students are not allowed to dress out for games/competitions. Students are not allowed to travel with the team to away games/competitions in district or chartered vehicles. Once the athlete has served the suspension, he/she will be eligible to practice and also participate in contests at the coach's discretion.

(TWO VIOLATIONS) of the Code of Conduct (SUBSTANCE and/or BEHAVIOR) will result in immediate removal from the current sport/activity and total exclusion from interscholastic athletics/activities at Sonoran Trails Middle School for the remainder of the academic year, August through July.

Final discretion and interpretation of any offense and consequence is up to the Athletic Director and Administration. Students must follow all existing school practices as stated in the Board of Education's policies and regulation and the Sonoran Trails student handbook.

Practice/Game Uniforms

Students will be issued practice/game uniform at the beginning of the season and are responsible for returning it clean and in good repair at the conclusion. The practice/game uniform will be valued at replacement cost. Students will not be permitted to participate in the next sports season until they return their practice/game uniform from the prior season.

Bus Transportation

Buses will be provided to and from all away game contests. Student-athletes are expected to stay after school and wait under the supervision of their coach until the bus leaves for their away game contest which is usually around 3:15 PM. If the student-athlete rides the bus home from an away contest the coach will provide an approximate arrival time back to Sonoran Trails for pick-up (usually within 15 minutes). Parents should be notified of these times and plan to be at the school to meet the team(s) when they return.

During regular/ post season game transportation, any acts that cause an unsafe environment, disturb or offend fellow passengers, or soil or damage the bus will be considered inappropriate, and some action will be taken against the offender(s). This may include suspension, or expulsion from the team and/or school or losing the privilege to travel to away games. NO FOOD OR DRINK (other than water bottles) will be consumed on any athletic bus without permission from the coach and bus driver.

Transportation Permission Form

If you wish to transport your child to and/or from an event(s) you will need to fill out one of the district approved transportation forms found on the ST Athletics web page. You can find a single event form or an all season form on the Athletic Conference Map & Addresses page. Please turn in to your coach or the Athletic Director when completed.

Parent Involvement

The athletic director, administration and coaching staff welcome parental support. We love to see you at our games both home and away and appreciate the help and cooperation that you give us which ultimately benefits your child. Volunteering to do lines in volleyball or timing a track event among other things are very much appreciated. However, questions concerning playing time, coaching strategies, etc., should be reserved for telephone conversations, written communications, or scheduled conferences. It is inappropriate to discuss such matters with a coach during or immediately following a practice session, game, or other school activity. At these times the coaches are focused on the teams themselves and the welfare of the players, and are not in an adequate position to respond.

Spirit of the Rules

It is important to know that no two sports are exactly the same in nature; therefore exact equality in dealing with situations may not be possible. Our goal is to strive for remedies equal in the spirit of the rules rather than the letter of the rules. All of the teachers, coaches and administrators involved in the extra-curricular activities of our school desire to help every student achieve their maximum potential in all facets of their lives.

The Cave Creek School Board, school administrators, and athletic director reserve the right to enforce rules and regulations that are established policy, practice, or which seem to district leadership to be in the best interest of all concerned, even if not published in this handbook.

Handbook

Parents are required to co-sign along with the student-athlete that they have read and agree to support the athletic policies of STMS. Please sign the last page of this handbook and turn it in to the front office with your required athletic clearance forms and athletic fee. I would be glad to answer any questions you may have concerning any of the policies contained herein, and can be reached at #480-272-8620.



We have read the Athletic Handbook and agree to uphold the athletic policies of Sonoran Trails Middle School.

Student-Athlete Signature

Parent Signature

Date