

SNEED MIDDLE SCHOOL

ATHLETICS



ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

FOR

PARENTS AND ATHLETES

Parent/Coach Relationship

Parenting and coaching are extremely difficult professions. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of others and provide greater benefit to our children. As parents, when your children become involved in a 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:

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as a member of the team
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests
4. Team requirements (academics, special equipment, off season conditioning, etc.)
5. Procedures should your child be injured during participation
6. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation

Communication coaches expect from parents:

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
3. Specific concerns in regards to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations

As your children become involved in the programs at Sneed Middle 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 your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
2. Ways to help your child improve
3. Concerns about your child's behavior

It is very difficult to accept that your child is not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be 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 listed below, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other student athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged! It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position.

Note: Please DO NOT attempt to confront a coach before, during, 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 a good resolution.

Participation on an Athletic Team

Participation on an athletic team is a privilege, not a right. Being on a team and staying on a team means accepting all responsibilities of a student-athlete. Unlike intramural or recreational teams, equal playing time does not exist at the Middle-School level. Coaches will play players best suited to produce a team that best represents the school and are best suited for the conditions and demands of the contest at that time.

Requirements for Participation

- All academic eligibility requirements have been satisfied
- Parents' permission to participate is on file in the athletic office
- Physical exams completed and file in the athletic office
- Medical History forms completed and on file in the athletic office
- All forms uploaded and approved on Planet HS
- Participation in tryouts and/or other requirements by coach for team

Dismissal or Quitting a Team

An athlete, who quits or is dismissed from a team after the first official day of practice dictated by the High School League, will not be allowed to try out for any other team during that sport season.

- Example: An athlete who quits or is removed from football team cannot participate in basketball workouts until football season has come to an end-playoffs included.
- Example: An athlete that quits or is removed from basketball cannot participate in baseball workouts until baseball season has come to an end-playoffs included.

Travel Policy

All athletes will ride the team bus to and from the contest unless a player is released to the custody of a parent at the end of an away contest by the coach. For the athlete to leave with a parent a written note must be given to the coach with date and reason for riding home with that parent. This must be 48 hours prior to the team leaving for the contest. That being said I want players riding back on a bus as much as possible. It builds team camaraderie, and it's safer.

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1691516058/f1sorg/j8tnw0bkvttrnobwdg9g/LiabilityWaiverForm-ParentDriver.pdf>

Disciplinary Policy

Sneed Middle School athletes will be expected to conduct themselves in a manner that exemplifies self-control and represents the school in a good manner. In the event that an athlete has to be disciplined at school, his or her membership on a team may be in jeopardy. If the discipline requires a suspension from school the athlete will not be allowed to participate in practice or games during the time of the suspension. More than one suspension may warrant the removal of the athlete from the team he or she is on.

Behavior off of the Field

As a representative of the team your actions reflect on this program and therefore you are held to a higher standard in the classroom, on social media, and in all areas of your life. Failure to follow all rules listed in the Sneed Student handbook will result in consequences. Below are the more serious offenses:

Bullying/Cyber Bullying

- This team does not tolerate any form of bullying. Any reports of bullying will result in immediate suspension for 1 game.

Disrespect

- Disrespect of Teachers: If any teachers report that they have an issue with you respecting them in the classroom the following will take place
 - First offense: Sit out one half
 - Second offense: Sit out an ENTIRE game
 - Third offense: Meeting with coaches to discuss future on team

- Disrespect of Coaches: If you disrespect any of the coaching staff the following will take place:
 - First offense: Sit out one half of a game
 - Second offense: Sit out an ENTIRE game
 - Third offense: Meeting with coaches to discuss future on team

- Disrespect of Teammates: If you disrespect or cause issues with any of your teammates the following will take place:
 - First offense: Extra Conditioning
 - Second offense: Sit out one half of a game
 - Third offense: Sit out an ENTIRE game

Office Referrals

- If you receive a referral you will have a meeting with the coaches to discuss the severity of the referral and the consequence that best fits that offense.
 - Minor infractions could result in: Laps, reduction of playing time, etc.
 - Major infractions could result in: Reduction of playing time, suspension from team, etc.

Behavior on the Field

While I love that my players are competitive, there is also a level of professionalism and class that I require from them. Regardless of the calls officials make or how the other team is behaving we will always treat everyone with respect. Failure to do so will result in the following:

1. First offense: Immediately pulled off the field and will sit the rest of the quarter
2. Second offense: Immediately pulled off the field and will sit the rest of the game
3. Third offense: Immediately pulled off the field and will be suspended the next game and the remainder of the current game.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Sportsmanship will be held to the utmost importance in our athletic department. Athletes will be expected to display good sportsmanship at all times. This means:

- There should be no inappropriate or vulgar language or gestures from our fans or players
- Taunting or trash talking of our opponents will not be tolerated
- Spectators may not enter onto the field or court **during** a contest
- Fans should be supportive and positive. Cheering should be done for our team and not against our opponents

Sneed Middle School Athletes are expected to

- Excel in the classroom
- exemplify high morals, good character, and a strong work ethic
- respect the integrity of others
- abide by the rules of the game in spirit and intent
- demonstrate a continuing interest in personal improvement
- display good sportsmanship
- respect the rights and possessions of teammates, coaches, administrators and officials
- represent the program in their appearance

EXIT INTERVIEWS

All Head coaches will have exit interviews with all players. During these meetings, the coach will evaluate the player's year, give suggestions to improve during the off season, and help the player plan for their future within that sport.

SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

AGE

A student who becomes 15 years of age prior to July 1 of the upcoming school year, will not be able to compete on an 8th grade and under team in any athletic activities. For a 9th grade and under team, substitute 16 years of age for 15. A student who becomes too old for a 7th and 8th grade team may be considered as enrolled in the 9th grade for eligibility purposes.

Eligibility and Academics

Sneed Middle School athletes must meet all academic requirements set forth by the South Carolina High School League and Florence School District 1 in order to be eligible to participate on any Sneed athletic team. At Sneed our Student-Athletes are STUDENTS first. This means that your classes take top priority. All students on the team are expected to maintain a C average in their classes. You will have grade check-ins with your position coaches and Coach Jones every 3 weeks. The following are the expectations if you have a grade that does not meet the requirements.

1. If you are failing 1 class you must have a form signed from the teacher that you have gone to the teacher to receive extra help in order to be able to play.
2. If you are failing 2 classes you need to arrange after school tutoring to pull both classes up and you will not practice or play.
3. If you are failing 3 classes you are not eligible to compete until you pull all grades above a D.

ATTENDANCE

If a student fails to enroll and attend classes for one day by the eighth calendar day of the first semester, he/she will not be allowed to take part in any contest until he/she has been a *bona fide* regular attendant for 30 calendar days. A student must have attended school at least 60 days in the semester immediately preceding the contest or sport. Absences may not be made up. Also the day of the contest the student-athlete must be in class at least 2 blocks.

AMATEUR STATUS

Middle school students may NOT take part in varsity practices, if players are wearing any equipment other than helmets. If players are equipped with more than helmets, middle school athletes must hold their practices apart from the varsity team. (They could be on the same field, but away from the varsity practices.) Middle school students may not be equipped in pads or have contact drills during spring practice. Middle School teams may not participate in passing leagues. Middle school teams may not participate in 7 on 7 passing leagues or 11 on 11 competitions.

LIMITED TEAM MEMBERSHIP

A student whose name appears on a school's certificate of eligibility, other than soccer, tennis, golf, bowling, or swimming, shall not practice nor participate on a team in that sport other than the team representing his/her school during the season of the sport for which he/she has been certified. Violation of this regulation will render the student ineligible in that sport for the remainder of the school year.

PHYSICAL EXAM

All athletes must have passed a current year physical exam. This record must be on file in the athletic director's office and dated after April 1 of the previous school year.

Social Media

Social Media can be a positive influence, or have major negative repercussions. Here are some guidelines that coaches and student-athletes need to follow:

1. Do not post anything negative or threatening towards students, student-athletes, faculty, or anyone else on social media platforms. Remember if you are home and post something negative about a student at a school, that falls under the F1S discipline code. You could be suspended.
2. Make sure you like our Sneed social media pages. A lot of good helpful information will be provided on these platforms. For X, @SneedAthletics , for Instagram, sneedathletics for, Facebook, Sneed Middle School
3. When in doubt, DO NOT POST ANYTHING! It's better to be safe than sorry. Let's make social media a positive place for the entire Sneed community. Swords up!

10 Goals to be a Successful Sneed Student-Athlete

TO STAY INVOLVED

WIN IN THE CLASSROOM – Know your goals...make a plan...get promoted.. Be on time. Sit up front. Take good notes. Do all extra work possible. Plan ahead and talk to teachers when you are having a problem. Get extra help when needed.

WIN IN RELATIONSHIPS – Treat teachers, trainers, support staff, coaches, Admin, and all you meet with respect. Treat other people the way you want to be treated. Moody people are rude. Remember to smile, to say please, thank you, yes sir, yes ma'am and give the people the benefit of the doubt.

BE COMMITTED TO THE PROGRAM – We realize that our players are in a fish bowl at Sneed Middle School. Every word and action will be watched. We must be committed to building traditions in our program starting today and respect those that have gone before us and paid the price.

TO PLAY HERE

BE COMMITTED TO HARD WORK – Our program is built on the concept that hard work pays off. We believe that we will OUT work for everyone else...and because of that we always deserve to win. There is a reason we are going to become the best...we work at it.

BE COMMITTED TO BECOMING A SMARTER PLAYER – Our players must be ready to learn. We believe we work smarter than anyone else...We must develop players who understand the game. Or players must be good listeners and learn by watching. We must make good decisions; we must play with poise. We prepare mentally for practice and games.

BE COMMITTED TO OUR TEAM ATTITUDE CONCEPT – We must have players who believe in our team concept. Our program is built on the concept that the team/program is bigger than any one player...We need unselfish players.

COMMIT YOURSELF TO A WINNING ATTITUDE – Our players must be committed to winning but understand we don't measure our success by winning alone. Each time we play we elevate ourselves on reaching our potential. The test for our team is to play against the game and not just our opponent. We never quit. We are always looking for a way to win.

TO WIN HERE

TRUST THE COACHES – Commit yourself to our philosophy, to our system of play. Learn your role...then accept your role and do it the best you can. Understand that your coaches are trying to help make you better people and players. Ask questions...Don't whine and complain. Learn to take tough coaching. You must believe that coaches are doing what they think is right for the team and you.

TRUST YOURSELF – Play with confidence...think positive...realize you are a great player in a great program. Don't get down when you play poorly... realize you were chosen to be here...be a leader. Lead by example.

TRUST YOUR TEAMMATES – Communicate with each other...help each other. Remember the strength of the pack is the wolf and the strength of the wolf is the pack. Encourage each other and support each other. Don't ever forget the importance of the shell around the team. Be a friend. We understand we are all different – be tolerant of teammates and others.

I have read, understand, and agree with the policies set forth by the Sneed Middle School Athletic Handbook and will abide by these expectations throughout the school year, not only when my sport is in season.

Player's Name _____

Player Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Parent Phone Number: _____

Parent Email: _____