

SWARTZ CREEK

ATHLETIC  
HANDBOOK

---

2009-2010



*Swartz Creek Community Schools*

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# Welcome

The Swartz Creek Community School District encourages all athletes to experience the value of participating in quality programs and events. Good sportsmanship is expected from these athletes as well as coaches and fans. Student welfare and safety are top priorities as athletes reflect the spirit of competition. The *Athletic Handbook* has been developed for use by Swartz Creek athletes and parents. This resource expresses School District expectations for our student athletes.

If you would like more information regarding Swartz Creek Athletics, please contact the Swartz Creek Athletic office at (810) 591-1809 or go to our school website [www.swartzcreek.org](http://www.swartzcreek.org).

<b>SPORT</b>	<b>SEASON</b>	<b>TEAMS</b>
Cross Country-Boys	Fall	J.V. & Varsity
Football	Fall	Freshman, J.V. & Varsity
Golf-Girls	Fall	J.V. & Varsity
Soccer-Boys	Fall	J.V. & Varsity
Volleyball	Fall	Freshman, J.V. & Varsity
Sideline Cheer	Fall	Freshman, J.V. & Varsity
Cross Country-Girls	Fall	J.V. & Varsity
Poms	Fall	Varsity
Swimming-Girls	Fall	Varsity
Tennis-Boys	Fall	J.V. & Varsity
Basketball-Boys/Girls	Winter	Freshman, J.V. & Varsity
Hockey	Winter	Varsity
Swimming-Boys	Winter	Varsity
Wrestling	Winter	J.V. & Varsity
Competitive Cheer	Winter	Freshman, J.V. & Varsity
Poms	Winter	Varsity
Baseball	Spring	Freshman, J.V. & Varsity
Tennis-Girls	Spring	J.V. & Varsity
Track-Boys	Spring	J.V. & Varsity
Golf-Boys	Spring	J.V. & Varsity
Soccer-Girls	Spring	J.V. & Varsity
Softball	Spring	Freshman, J.V. & Varsity
Track-Girls	Spring	J.V. & Varsity

\*Club sports available: Girls/Boys Varsity Bowling in the winter and Girls/Boys Varsity & JV Lacrosse in the spring.

# ***New for 2009-2010***

## **Athletic Registration Fee**

Beginning in 2009-2010 students who wish to participate in grades 7 – 12 athletics will be required to pay a registration fee of \$50 per student and no more than \$100 per family. The fee allows for unlimited participation in all sports seasons for the academic school year. Students or siblings under the same household who are eligible for free and/or reduced lunch will be allowed to participate for free upon verification.

- All fees must be paid no later than one week prior to the first regularly scheduled athletic scrimmage, game or event. Checks are to be made payable to **Swartz Creek Athletics** and should be turned into the high school athletic office secretary.
- Payment of fee does not guarantee playing time. Once the season begins no refunds will be permitted.
- The following athletic teams are part of the school sponsored athletic program:

## **Swartz Creek Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> & 8th Grade Athletic Teams**

Baseball	Cheerleading	Football	Softball	Track & Field	
Basketball	Cross Country	Poms	Swimming	Volleyball	Wrestling

## **Swartz Creek High School Athletic Teams**

### ***FALL SPORTS***

#### **Boys' Sports**

**Cross Country** {Varsity, JV}  
**Football** {Varsity, JV, Frosh}  
**Soccer** {Varsity, JV}  
**Tennis** {Varsity, JV}

#### **Girls' Sports**

**Cheerleading – Sideline** {Var., JV, Fr.}  
**Cross Country** {Varsity, JV}  
**Golf** {Varsity, JV}  
**Poms** {Varsity}  
**Swimming** {Varsity}  
**Volleyball** {Var., JV, Fr.}

### ***Winter Sports***

#### **Boys' Sports**

**Basketball** {Varsity, JV, Frosh}  
**Hockey** {Varsity}  
**Swimming** {Varsity}  
**Wrestling** {Varsity & JV}

#### **Girls' Sports**

**Basketball** {Var., JV, Fr.}  
**Competitive Cheer** {Var, JV, Frosh}  
**Poms** {Varsity}

### ***Spring Sports***

#### **Boys' Sports**

**Baseball** {Var, JV, Frosh}  
**Golf** {Varsity, JV}  
**Track** {Varsity, JV}

#### **Girls' Sports**

**Soccer** {Varsity, JV}  
**Softball** {Varsity, JV, Fr.}  
**Tennis** {Varsity, JV}  
**Track** {Varsity, JV}

# Philosophy of Athletics

Swartz Creek's interscholastic athletic program is a vital and integral part of our total educational program. As an integral part of the educational process, Swartz Creek's athletic program supports the objectives and standards of our district. Athletes must strive for educational and athletic excellence while staying within the boundaries of good sportsmanship. Students involved in extra-curricular activities have a greater chance for success during adulthood. Character traits required for success as a student athlete promote success in life after graduation. The program's intent is to make positive contributions towards the overall development of students and community.

## Mission Statement

The mission of Swartz Creek's Athletic Department is to provide quality individual and team training that supports the Philosophy of Athletics, by attracting, developing, and retaining student athletes and quality coaches.

## Program Objectives

- To provide a positive image of school activities at Swartz Creek Community Schools.
- To provide students with opportunities for physical, mental, and emotional development.
- To experience team play.
- To develop loyalty, cooperation and sportsmanship.
- To create a desire to improve and excel.
- To practice and develop self-discipline while learning to make decisions under pressure.
- To develop an understanding of the value for extracurricular activities within a balanced educational experience.
- To develop leadership qualities and skills.

## Flint Metro League Conference

The Swartz Creek Community School District is a member of the Flint Metro League Conference. This conference is known and respected for its outstanding tradition and high level of competitiveness. Flint Metro League schools endorse a belief that quality extra curricular programs play an integral role in the educational process by enhancing the mental, emotional and physical well being of each participating individual. Members of the Flint Metro League include:

Brandon  
Clio

Fenton  
Holly  
Kearsley

Lapeer East  
Lapeer West  
Linden

Oxford  
Swartz Creek

# Michigan High School Athletic Association Student Athlete Rules

The Swartz Creek Community School District is a member of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA), which is the governing body for all Michigan interscholastic sports. The Michigan High School Athletic Association determines all rules and regulations related to interscholastic sports, classifies all member schools based on student enrollment and sanctions all tournaments at the end of each sports season.

**Age** - A student who competes in any MHSAA interscholastic athletic contest must be under nineteen (19) years of age, or must have his/her nineteenth birthday on or after September 1 of that school year.

**Amateur Status** - No student shall be eligible to represent his/her high school in MHSAA competition if he/she has received money or other valuable consideration, or has signed a professional athletic contract.

**Awards** - A student may accept a symbolic or merchandise award that does not have a value or cost in excess of \$25.00 for participation in athletics. Awards for athletic participation in the form of cash, merchandise certificates, or any other type of negotiable documents are never allowed. A violation of this rule may lead to ineligibility.

**Enrollment** - A student must be enrolled in a high school no later than the fourth Friday after Labor Day, first semester, or fourth Friday of February, second semester, to be eligible for interscholastic athletics. A student must be enrolled in the school for which he/she competes.

**Previous Semester Record** - No student shall be allowed to compete in any athletic contest during any semester that does not have his or her credits recorded with Swartz Creek. In order to remain eligible, students must pass at least four classes during their most recent semester. Exceptions must be authorized in writing by the Athletic Director prior to the beginning of involvement on any athletic team.

**Current Semester Record** - Academic eligibility reviews of not more than ten weeks are required. If a student is not passing at least four classes when checked, that student is ineligible for competition until the next check but not less than the next Monday through Sunday.

**Semesters of Competition** - Once enrolled in grade nine, a student shall be allowed to compete in athletic competitions during four-first semesters and four-second semesters. Student enrolled in grades 9-12, inclusive, for more than eight semesters shall not compete in any Swartz Creek athletic event. The seventh and eighth semesters of an athlete's schedule must be consecutive. When a sport is sponsored twice during a school year, students shall be limited to one season of participation. This does not include cheerleading and pom poms.

**Undergraduate Standing** - A student who is a graduate of a regular four-year high school shall not be eligible for Swartz Creek's interscholastic athletic program.

# Michigan High School Athletic Association Student Athlete Rules

**Physical Examination** - No student athlete shall be eligible to represent Swartz Creek unless there is a physician's statement on file in the offices of the Athletic Director for the current school year. A physician's statement for the current school year is interpreted as physical examination given after April 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous school year. This statement must certify that the student has passed a physical examination and is physically able to compete in athletic practices and contests.

**Residency/Transfers** – When a student moves into Swartz Creek and wishes to participate in sports, the student must present legal proof of residency. Important MHSAA rules apply. Questions concerning residency must be referred to the athletic director.

The Swartz Creek Community School District will enforce rules of ineligibility, including those due to student or athletic conduct code violations placed on a student in his/her previous school when that student transfers to Swartz Creek.

**Banned Substances** – Use of performance-enhancing substance by a student is a violation that will affect a student's athletic eligibility and extra-curricular participation, as determined by the Board of Education.

Ephedra of Ma Huang, Eptonin or sida cordifolia.

Brand supplements containing Ephedra:

Herbal Ecstasy	3-Andro Xtreme
Shape-Fast Plus	Adipokinetix
Thermogen Tea	Animal Cuts
Metabolife 356	BetaLean
Ultimate Orange	Dyma-Bum Xtreme
Diet Fuel	Dymetadrine Xtreme
Herbal Rush	Energel
Energy Rush	Metacuts
Xenadrine	Thermo Speed
Biodrine	Yellow Jacket
Ripped Fuel	Ripped Force

Androstenedione, Norandro, DHEA, DHT, and Tribulus terrestris

Brand Supplements containing 19 Norandrostenedione, Androstenediol and Dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA):

3-andro Xtreme  
Andro-Gen  
Andro-Stack  
Androstat  
Animal Stak  
Nor Andro Ripped Fuel  
Nor-Stak  
Nor-Tek

GHB/GBL – Gamma Hydroxy Buryrate or Gamma Butyrolactone  
Supplements containing GHB/GBL include:

Rest-EZE	Renewtrient
Blue Nirto	Gamma G

Revivarant G  
GH revitalizer  
GHR  
Remforce

IsomaX  
Firewater  
Invigorate  
Somoatomax-PM

Synephrine or citrus aurantium or zhi shi  
Supplements containing sunephine

Thermo-Lift  
Herbal Thermotabs

Gracinia cambogia  
Supplements containing garcinia cambogia:  
Hydroxycitrate  
Hydroxycut  
Citimax

# Athletic Code of Conduct for Student Athletes

Participation in Swartz Creek’s sports programs is a privilege. Athletes must adhere to MHSAA, Flint Metro League Conference and Swartz Creek Community School District expectations. Swartz Creek Community School District athletes must conduct themselves in an exemplary manner at all times. This standard applies to school and community activities that may occur on or off school property. Violations may result in suspension or dismissal from a team in addition to consequences outlined in the Swartz Creek High School’s Parent Student Handbook. The purpose of Swartz Creek’s **Code of Conduct** is to establish an awareness of sports-related consequences for violation of established school rules. The disciplinary actions recommended in each case should be considered as the minimum. If circumstances warrant, a more severe disciplinary action may result.

Certain violations represent serious incidents that may occur in school, at school events, away from school, or during off seasons. These violations may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Possession, use, or transfer of controlled substances or drug paraphernalia.
- Possession, use, or transfer of alcoholic beverages including those labeled as non-alcoholic.
- Possession, use or transfer of weapons.
- Theft, arson and vandalism.
- Gross misbehavior and persistent disobedience.
- Striking or threatening school personnel.
- Gang related activities.
- Hazing.

<b>First Offense</b>	<p>Students will become ineligible in his/her sport (or next sport if not in season) for 2 games if the total season of that sport consists of ten contests or less. If the sport season in which the athlete competes consists of 11 or more contests, the athlete will become ineligible for 4 games.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>In sports that participate in a tournament and/or invitational where an individual athlete may compete in more than two (2) contests in one day; a maximum of two games in one day can be applied towards any suspension.</b></li> <li>• <b>In the event that a student-athlete’s suspension carries over to a new (next) sport’s season, the student athlete will be permitted to tryout for the next sport; however, they will be ineligible for the remaining number of contests related to his/her suspension. The length of the suspension is determined by the season in which the athlete was participating when the offense occurred or the next season in which the athlete participates if the offense occurred in the off-season.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Second Offense</b>	Students will become ineligible for participation in all athletic activities for three (3) months.
<b>Third Offense</b>	Student will become ineligible for participation in athletic activities for two calendar years.

# Athletic Code of Conduct for Student Athletes (continued)

Other violations represent less serious incidents that may also occur in school, at school events, away from school, or during off seasons. These violations may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Possession or use of tobacco.
- Skipping school.
- Fighting.
- Insubordination.
- Threatening and/or harassing students.
- Cheating.
- Repeated referrals or dismissals from class.
- Assault

<b>First Offense</b>	The Athletic Director will meet with the student athlete to explain disciplinary consequences. Consequences may include loss of athletic participation for up to five activity days. The Athletic Director shall inform the student and parents of the disciplinary action in writing.
<b>Second and Subsequent Offenses</b>	The Athletic Director will meet with the student to explain disciplinary consequences. Consequences may include loss of athletic participation for six or more activity days. The Athletic Director shall inform the student and parents of the disciplinary action in writing.

**Note:** Students receiving out-of-school suspension for violation of school rules are also suspended from participation in all extra-curricular activities including athletic practices and contests while serving the suspension.

## Appeals and Due Process

Swartz Creek students may appeal athletic consequences related to violation of school rules to the principal. If the principal's decision is not acceptable, the appeal may be forwarded to the Superintendent of Schools. The superintendent's decision will be final.

# Athletic Attendance Policy

**Attendance** - Athletes must attend all practices and games unless excused by a parent or guardian. Coaches must be contacted prior to the absence whenever possible. Players or teammates are not allowed to report absences. If a parent or guardian confirms an absence, the missed practice or game will be excused. The following consequences exist for unexcused absences:

First Offense	Coach and Athlete conference
Second Offense	Coach, Parent and Athlete conference, One game suspension
Third Offense	Dismissal from team

Athletes dismissed from their team as a result of unexcused absences may request a review of their dismissal through submission of a written appeal to the Athletic Director. This appeal must be submitted within two school days of being dismissed. The Athletic Director will make a final decision within two days of receiving the appeal.

**School Attendance-** A student must be in attendance at school the **ENTIRE DAY** to be eligible to participate in practice and/or games. Exceptions to this rule are at the discretion of the Athletic Director and/or building principal.

**Excusing Athletes From Class** - In the event that a scheduled competition requires a team to be excused from class prior to normal dismissal time, athletes will be released no sooner than thirty minutes before the time their bus departs for an event.

**Practice During Vacation-** Teams may hold practice during school vacation days. Athletes must provide written parental permission to coaches stating their reason for not attending these practices. Athletes who miss those scheduled practices due to reasons excused by their parents will not jeopardize their membership on the team.

## Athletic Eligibility

All ninth grade students are eligible to participate in Swartz Creek's athletic program during their first semester of high school regardless of previous academic achievement. To remain eligible for participation in Swartz Creek interscholastic sports programs; regular education, special education, second semester freshmen and all students at other grade levels must pass four classes (66% of credit load potential for a full time student) during the semester immediately preceding their sport's first practice. The period of ineligibility following a deficiency at the end of a semester is 60 scheduled school days. Students become eligible on their 61<sup>st</sup> scheduled school day provided they have been doing passing work cumulatively for the previous 60 days.

In addition, students must maintain a grade point average (G.P.A.) of "C" or 2.0 at the conclusion of each marking period or semester. The student's grades will be checked at the end of **each** marking period and/or semester to validate that they are eligible to participate. Eligibility is determined at the end of each marking period and is cumulative through one semester. At the end of a semester, the grade will be used to determine

eligibility. Students not meeting the 2.0 standard but wish to participate may appeal in writing to the athletic director. However, these students will observe a two week waiting period to establish a new grade point average for the beginning of their new marking period/semester. At the end of these two weeks if the student has obtained a 2.0 or higher they are immediately eligible and will continue to be monitored on a weekly basis.

## **Athletic Eligibility Probation**

If a student's eligibility appeal is granted, that athlete will be placed on probation and will participate in a weekly monitoring process. Probationary athlete's grades will be checked through the Athletic Office every Thursday. Students who fall below a 2.0 G.P.A. on the weekly progress report and/or fail to follow probationary guidelines will be ineligible from Monday to Sunday the following week. Coaches of the appeal athletes will be notified each Thursday to the status of the eligibility. During that week students may practice, but will not be allowed to participate in any athletic scrimmages and/or contests. This provides the school with a method of tracking and providing counseling on a weekly basis. Students will be re-evaluated on the next grade check. Athletes on appeal may be asked to attend mandatory tutoring. Incompletes and No Credits are considered "E's" until the work is completed and an official grade is given by the teacher on Gradewise.

## **NCAA College Eligibility Rules**

Students wishing to play their freshman year at a NCAA Division I or Division II college must satisfy requirements of NCAA Bylaw 14.3, and must be certified by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Center formally know as the Clearinghouse. Students should check with their counselor to obtain an Eligibility Center form. Athletes and their parents share responsibility to meet NCAA requirements.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) regulates many college athletic programs. The NCAA has three membership divisions:

**Division I:** Schools such as Michigan State, University of Michigan, Central Michigan, Western Michigan, Eastern Michigan, Oakland University.

**Division II:** Schools such as SVSU, Grand Valley State, Northern Michigan, Michigan Tech.

**Division III:** Schools such as Alma College, Hope, and Calvin.

Each school's membership depends on the size and scope of their athletic program and whether they provide athletic scholarships. Swartz Creek students are encouraged to contact their counselor with questions regarding NCAA eligibility.

# Athletic Facility Rules

Student athletes utilize facilities that support their involvement in competitive sports. These facilities must work for the good of all team members. The following rules allow school facilities to remain in good condition. Athletes are expected to meet expectations:

- The training room is not a meeting place. Only athletes who are there for a specific reason are permitted to enter.
- Athletes are responsible for making sure locker rooms and facilities remain clean.
- Athletes will not be issued school towels.
- Athletes are not allowed to keep training room supplies without permission of the trainer.
- Athletes are not allowed in the coach's office unless permitted by their coach.
- Athletes may not operate bleachers.
- No student is allowed in the gym or weight room unless a coach is present.
- Athletes should not bring large sums of money to school.
- Valuable items should be kept in padlocked lockers during practices and games.
- SCHS is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
- Athletes are responsible for their own locks.

# Weight Room Rules

The weight room is provided for Swartz Creek students, staff and community. Athletes are not permitted in the weight room without a coach. Students who use this facility must abide by the following rules:

- Coaches and athletes are responsible for making sure the weight bars are cleared, weights are stacked, the weight room is clean, the stereo and lights are turned off and doors locked when leaving.
- No tobacco, gum, glass, drinks or food is allowed in the weight room.
- Appropriate apparel (shirt/shorts/shoes) must be worn at all times.
- Spotters must be used for all lifts over the head and body.
- Use weight belts for safety—especially those lifts involving the lower back.
- Anyone behaving in an inappropriate manner may be removed from the weight room and have their privileges suspended.

# Equipment and Supplies

The Swartz Creek Community School District supplies equipment to athletes. This equipment is on loan for specific seasons. Students are responsible for care of this equipment. If damage or loss occurs, the student may be held liable for replacement cost of the equipment.

## **Individual Athletic Awards**

Coaches establish standards for earning athletic team awards. Student athletes must participate throughout an entire season to be eligible for awards. Award standards include:

- The varsity athletic award shall be red in color.
- An athlete shall not receive more than one varsity letter award during his/her school career. The athlete must participate in at least 50% of the contests to be eligible for a varsity letter. Certificates shall be presented to each athlete should he/she earn more than one varsity award.
- The school reserves the right to recall any athletic award granted.
- The school reserves the right to request that students remove improperly worn awards.
- The freshman athletic team award shall be a certificate of participation
- The junior varsity athletic team award shall be a junior varsity letter certificate.
- The varsity athletic team award shall be a large "S", red in color.

## **School Colors and Varsity Jackets**

Swartz Creek Community School District Colors are red and white. Varsity letter jackets shall only be red and white trim or red and red trim. School monograms awarded for athletic participation should be placed on the upper front left panel of the jacket. Numerals shall be placed on the left sleeve. Any additional lettering or numbering on the jacket must have the approval of the Athletic Director.

## **Event Passes**

Swartz Creek has a 10-event pass available for \$35 in the athletic office. Also, senior citizen, 60 and over, may obtain a Gold Card from the Swartz Creek Community Education Department located at Mary Crapo, free of charge. Valid picture ID is required. Either pass admits an individual into any Swartz Creek home event free of charge with the exception of hockey, an anticipated sold out event, and all Flint Metro League Championships and Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) events.

# Injuries

If an athlete is injured and needs medical attention, Swartz Creek coaches will contact that student's parents for further instructions. The coach or trainer will call for an ambulance when necessary. When an athlete has suffered serious injury, an athlete will not be permitted to resume participation without certified medical clearance. Coaches report all injuries to the Athletic Director and trainer. The Swartz Creek Community School District does not assume financial responsibility for medical, hospital or ambulance expenses incurred because of athletic injuries. Athletics is a voluntary program in which the student may participate if he/she so desires, but the student does so at his/her own risk of injury. Risks of injury or death can occur when students participate in sports activities.

# Team Membership

Once an athlete tries out for a particular sport, that student may not try out for another sport without permission from the primary team. Changing from one sports team to another must occur prior to the first game of a season. When an athlete is dropped from a team for disciplinary reasons, that student is ineligible to participate in another sport during the same season.

Dual Team Membership – A student may participate on two athletic teams during the same season. Coaches of both teams must agree to dual team membership. The student must sign the dual membership agreement form along with each coach and parents. Final approval will be made by the Athletic Director. Coaches will meet to discuss the following before making a recommendation:

- A. Academic workload of the athlete.
- B. Dual practice schedule's impact on the athlete's class work.
- C. Frequency of competition and impact on class work.
- D. Priority of conflicting sports.
- E. Parent support of dual membership.

Limited Team Membership Per the Michigan High School Athletic Association, a student who, after practicing with (including tryouts) or participating in an athletic contest or scrimmage as a member of a Swartz Creek High School Athletic team, participates in any athletic competition not sponsored by the Swartz Creek Community Schools in the same sport during the same season, shall become ineligible for a minimum of the next three (3) days of competition and maximum of the remainder of that season in that school year.

# Team Selection Procedures

Swartz Creek Community School District students are encouraged to participate in after-school and interscholastic sports activities. Involvement is highly associated with academic achievement and overall enjoyment of school years. To the extent that individual sports can accommodate large numbers of participants, coaches are encouraged to strive for the maximum number of athletes on a team. Factors including time, facility space and coaching philosophy help to determine final membership on any team. Coaches of respective sports and the Athletic Director will determine minimum and maximum team membership limits. Prior to try-outs, the coach shall provide the following information to all candidates for the team:

- Extent of the try-out period.
- Criteria used to select team.
- Approximate number to be selected.
- Practice commitment if they make the team.

Following practices and scrimmages leading to determination of team membership, students will be informed of coaching staff decisions. Athletes not selected for a team will be personally informed of reasons supporting that decision. Cut lists will not be posted.

## Playing Out of Level

In most cases, freshman team membership is comprised of freshmen students, junior varsity teams are comprised of sophomore students, and varsity teams are comprised of juniors and seniors. Special circumstances may move students to teams outside their normal grouping. When non-traditional team assignments are made, the following criteria is considered by the Athletic Director and coach prior to contacting the student:

- The impact of academic work on the athlete.
- The emotional impact on the athlete.
- The social impact on the athlete.
- The physical impact on the student.
- The interests of the school, teams involved, and the student.

Playing out of level is not a typical placement for student athletes. It should be understood that this not only applies to athletes playing up a level, but also juniors playing on the junior varsity level.

# Transportation

Riding buses to and from away sports events is an important part of each athlete's interscholastic experience. Swartz Creek athletes are expected to ride team buses to and from all events. Riding a bus remains a privilege; athletes are expected to demonstrate responsibility and act in ways that reflect positively on their school district and home. The following rules highlight important expectations for our athletes:

- Athletes may not board the bus at any time until the coach is present. Teams board the bus together.
- All athletes must travel as a team to contests. The Athletic Director may approve athletes leaving with parents in extenuating circumstances following an event.
- When parents wish to excuse their child from riding a bus to or from an event, they must fill out a Travel Release Form and have it signed by the athletic director prior to buses departing for games. Travel Release Forms are available in the athletic office or can be found on the athletic website.
- Athletes are responsible for maintaining clean buses. All trash must be removed at the end of each bus trip.
- District bus conduct rules are in effect during all sports-related bus trips.

## **EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENT ATHLETES**

- Follow all training rules, school rules and MHSAA regulations.
- Exhibit good sportsmanship towards opponents, officials, teammates and fans.
- Work to excel in academics.
- Put team goals ahead of personal goals.
- Be a role model for all students before, during and after school.
- Have pride in yourself, your team, your school and care for your facility.
- Respect, but never fear the opponent.
- Work harder than the competition, both in and out of season and never quit.
- Be on time and prepared for practices, meetings and games.
- Accept the results, learn from the mistakes, focus on the goal and never give up.

**Participation in extra-curricular competitive interscholastic athletics is a student's privilege, not a right, that can be removed at any time for failure to meet the standards and requirements of particular teams, school or school districts, leagues or conferences, and regional, statewide or national organizations to which the student's school belongs.**

## **EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS**

- Help your child to learn from successes and failures.
- Encourage your child to attend all practices and games.
- Practice with your child at home.
- Come to games as often as possible.
- Cheer positively.
- Allow coaches to coach and teach.
- Allow officials to do their jobs.
- Compliment your child.
- Communicate with the coach.
- Refrain from using profanity or fighting with any coach, player, participant, spectator, official, or any other attendee.
- Remember this is your child's game.

# SCHS ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

## STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING FORM

---

This handbook contains the Swartz Creek High School Athletic Discipline code and general rules that apply to athletes in addition to those set forth in the *Parent/Student Handbook* adopted by the Board of Education. The material has been prepared for the use of Swartz Creek athletes and their parents. In order to participate in interscholastic athletics at Swartz Creek High School, athletes and their parent(s) are required to read the information contained in this document and sign **this sheet**. These signatures will serve as your agreement to abide by the school district's standards, rules and regulations.

I/we also consent to allowing our son/daughter to participate in athletics knowing that there is the inherent risk of injury. I/we understand that there are risks involved with athletic-related injuries.

The athletic department is asking each parent and athlete to sign both sides of this sheet to indicate the following:

1. Each has received the Swartz Creek Community Schools Athletic Handbook.
2. Each has read the training rules within the handbook.
3. Each understands that athletics is a voluntary program in which the student may participate if he or she so desires, but the student does so at his/her own risk of injury.
4. Each understands that a student participating in athletics should be insured under an adequate health care insurance policy. Parents will be required to sign an Emergency Release Form which asks for emergency contact numbers, health insurance carrier and policy or member number. This form is available in the athletic office or can be found on the athletic website.

**This sheet must be returned to the athlete's coach prior to the athlete's participation in the first regularly scheduled scrimmage/game/meet** as evidence of the fact that both athlete and parents are aware **and agree to abide by** the rules and regulations contained in this document.

The undersigned parent/guardian and student understand that any information dealing with arrest, detention or investigation of said student in regard to any criminal matter will be communicated to appropriate school officials.

ATHLETE'S  
NAME

PLEASE PRINT: \_\_\_\_\_ SPORT \_\_\_\_\_

ATHLETE'S  
SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ATHLETE'S PARENT  
SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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