

Mission Statement

The athletic program of the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics promotes the development and practice of life skills, academic excellence, and athletic lifestyles in all student-athletes during their time at the school and throughout their lives.

COMMON STANDARDS FOR THE SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR SCIENCE FOR MATHEMATICS ATHLETIC PROGRAM

The department promotes the highest standard of excellence in academics, athletics, and personal/social/emotional growth.

- All student-athletes must maintain academic success before participation in any athletic activity so that they may retain their eligibility.
- Student-athletes are required to maintain consistent attendance in class. When a student misses a majority of the school day, they are deemed ineligible for participation in practices or games that day, unless prior approval from a school administrator or school medical official has been provided.
- All student-athletes will model positive behavior both on and off campus.
- All student-athletes will respectfully follow policies in all classes.
- All student-athletes will adhere to individual rules and consequences.
- All student-athletes will respectfully follow all school guidelines, both on and off campus.
- All student-athletes will respectfully follow all South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics policies as written in the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics Student Handbook.
- Violations of school rules and/or community norms may result in further administrative action related to extra-curricular eligibility in addition to school disciplinary measures.

The department supports maximum participation.

- Student-athletes who quit a sport after the first event (i.e. game, meet, etc.) in the season will be deemed ineligible for any additional athletic related activities through the conclusion of the REGULAR season of the sport they quit, unless an agreement is reached among coaches and the school administrator.
- An accumulation of 3 unexcused absences or 5 excused absences from practice will result in suspension from any sport for a period, determined by the athletic director, of at least one week.
- An excused absence includes, but is not limited to a doctor's excuse, 24hr notice to the coach or athletic director, pre-scheduled class, or official school event.
- The coach or athletic director should be notified at least 24 hours in advance for a pre-scheduled class.
- Any disciplinary action based on absences (excused or unexcused) is based on the discretion of the athletic director.
- The first unexcused absence from a game will result in a warning. The second, and all subsequent absences, will result in disciplinary action based on the discretion of the coach or athletic director (which may include removal from team, suspension from all athletic events, and temporary suspension from a sport).

The department requires all spectators to respect participants as competitors while honoring the traditions of sport.

- Any act of unsportsmanlike conduct or behavior may result in ejection from a contest and further disciplinary action, at the discretion of the athletic director.

The department promotes the development of healthy lifestyle choices.

- Any evidence of alcohol, tobacco, or drug use by a student-athlete will result in immediate suspension from sports until the correct disciplinary actions have been followed (i.e. Honor Council, Judicial Council, etc. as explained in the student handbook). Any additional disciplinary action deemed through

these methods is taken into consideration when deciding the length of suspension, or possibility of ineligibility.

Athletic Clearance

NOTE: No student is allowed practice unless they have given the athletic director the correct documentation. There are no exceptions to this guideline.

- Physical from a doctor
- School insurance or your own insurance
- Parent permission
- Birth certificate (all levels of sports – must be a certified birth certificate)
- GSSM Concussion Form
- **IMPORTANT:** If a student, parent, or legal guardian, files an incorrect or fraudulent document with school authorities, or violates any eligibility rule, the student will be declared ineligible for a maximum of one calendar year from the date of discovery of the violation.

Equipment Issue and Collection

- Coaches will make sure that each student athlete has permission to practice, as issued by the athletic director, prior to issuing any athletic equipment.
- All athletic equipment issued to student athletes will be entered on the student athletic equipment card and be signed for. The student should inventory his/her equipment for proper number and sizes prior to signing the card.
- Athletic equipment, in most cases, is issued by number and the exact piece(s) of equipment must be returned in order to receive any awards or letters.
- Athletes are NOT allowed to participate in another sport until all equipment is returned or paid for from the previous sport.

Athletes Dropping from a Team

- An athlete who quits a team (after the first competition) may not participate in any other sport until the sport from which he/she drops has ended. It is the head coach's responsibility to report the athletes who quit the team to the athletic director. An exception is subject to the coach's approval.
- Any athlete who was dropped from a team by a doctor or coach for other than disciplinary reasons will be immediately eligible to participate in another sport of their choice. An exception is subject to the athletic director's approval.
- Any athlete that is planning to quit a team must notify their head coach in advance of this action and must turn in all of their equipment. It is extremely important that equipment be returned when a student drops to prevent the loss or theft of the equipment.

Eligibility

- Any changes in the ineligibility of a student must be made in writing and given to the athletic director and head coach. Exceptions to eligibility may be made at the discretion of the athletic director. Exceptions occur only in prohibiting an eligible student, not in allowing an ineligible student to participate.
- Any and all decisions must be reported to the athletic director, who has the final say. By signing this form, you are stating that you fully understand and agree with the guidelines stated above.

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