

**SUMMERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**

ATHLETES and PARENTS

Updated April, 2019



“GREEN WAVE STRONG”

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*Student-Athlete Parent Permission Form

*Student-Athlete Medical History Form

*Student-Athlete Physical Examination Form (to be completed by a physician)

*Concussion Policy Form

*These forms are found separately on the school website. You can copy and paste the link below to access these forms.

Each one must be signed and returned before a student is eligible to participate in athletics.

Dorchester District Two

Board of Trustees

Mrs. Gail Hughes, Chairperson
Mrs. Lisa Tupper
Mrs. Tanya Robinson
Mrs. Barbara Crosby
Mr. Brian Mitchum
Mr. Justin Farnsworth
Mr. Evan Guthrie

District Administration

Joseph R. Pye - Superintendent
Glenn Huggins – Assistant Superintendent
Julie Kornahrens – Assistant Superintendent

School Administration

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Athletic Department

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843-873-6460, x51109
slittle@dorchester2.k12.sc.us

The Mission - The Summerville High School Department of Athletics strives to be an elite AAAAA educational and athletic institution in providing support to all areas of the student-athlete experience.

The Vision - Summerville High School's Athletics Department desires to be a "world class" athletics system, expecting each student-athlete to perform at his/her highest levels and providing all members of our Green Wave family with an environment that permits them to do their personal best.

INTRODUCTION

This handbook was developed by the Summerville High School Athletics Leadership Team in order to provide the parents and student-athletes with basic information that is important to successfully participate in our interscholastic athletic programs. The intent of this handbook is to make participation a rewarding experience and as trouble free as possible.

TO THE STUDENT-ATHLETE

Careful scrutiny of the handbook's contents and compliance with the rules and regulations stipulated will keep athletes in good standing throughout their high school career.

We hope that a clear understanding of our athletic goals will make your athletic participation at Summerville High School a positive experience.

This handbook provides the conditions set forth by Summerville High School and the South Carolina High School League (SCHSL) rules and regulations, as well as the individual, team, and school community responsibilities and expectations of our student-athletes.

The purpose of the athletic program is to provide the student athlete with an opportunity to compete in an atmosphere of cooperation with teammates and coaches. Through this experience, the student/athlete will be able to learn and exhibit self-discipline, responsibility, decision-making, teamwork, sportsmanship, and character.

Participation in the program is considered a privilege extended by the Board of Education to students who choose to participate. Adherence to all team, school, and district policies is a requirement to maintain this privilege.

Please read this handbook carefully. It will assist in preparing to meet the responsibilities and challenges you will find as an SHS Student-Athlete.

OBJECTIVES OF PARTICIPATION

To provide a positive image of school athletics at Summerville High School.

To strive always for playing excellence that will produce winning teams within the bounds of good sportsmanship while enhancing the mental health of student athletes.

To ensure growth and development that will increase the participants potential to become great citizens, mothers, fathers, co-workers, and leaders in the community.

To provide opportunities that allow life skills to develop:

- 1) Physical, mental, and emotional growth and development.
- 2) Acquisition and development of special skills in activities of each student's choice.
- 3) Development of commitments such as loyalty, cooperation, fair play and other desirable social traits.
- 4) Directed leadership and supervision that stresses self-discipline, self-motivation, excellence, and the ideals of good sportsmanship that make for winning and losing graciously.
- 5) A focus of Green Wave school spirit that unifies the student body, faculty and community.
- 6) Goal setting and achievement skills.

To provide an opportunity for students to experience success in the activities he/she selects as well as a lifetime of positive memories.

To create a desire to succeed and excel.

To develop high ideals of fairness in all human relationships.

To practice self-discipline and emotional maturity in learning to make decisions under pressure.

To be socially competent and operate within a set of rules, thus gaining a respect for the rights of others.

To develop an understanding of the value of activities in a balanced educational process.

CHAIN OF COMMUNICATION

It is the responsibility of all Summerville High coaches to communicate and inform all those involved in their program about factors relevant to the team. It is the responsibility of the athlete and their parents to support the coach's decisions. If there is a situation that exists that is not understood by the athlete and the parents, the following "chain of communication" must be followed:

1. **Athlete talks to the coach(es)**

Often the problem is solved at this level.

2. **Parent talks to coach(es)**

Please make an appointment. **Do not approach the coach before or after a practice or game.** Our coaches have already been instructed not to have interactions with parents/spectators related to team/player management issues after sporting events.

3. **Parent talks to the Athletic Director.**

Please call to set up a meeting with the coach and supervisor of athletics. It is strongly suggested that the student also attend the meeting.

- Call Kelli Wheeler at 843-873-6460 ext.51060 to schedule an appointment.

"The Role of the Parent in Sports"

This is a free seminar available from the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS). It is a valuable reminder of our role as parents on the sidelines. Once at the site, you must register with nfhslearn.com to access the free course. Use the site for other athletic information from the NFHS. You may need to copy and paste the link below in order to view the program.

www.nfhslearn.com/electiveDetail.aspx?courseID=18000

TRY-OUTS

Many sub-varsity and varsity level teams conduct try-outs because of roster limits associated with the sport. Try-out criteria are determined by the head coach based on the skills they believe are most important to the overall success of the team. Parents who are indifferent to the results of a coaches determination need to refer to the communication chain above to inquire about the decisions associated with their child not being selected for a team. The Athletic Director does not and will not assign a student-athlete to a team if they have not been selected.

TO THE PARENTS

Your support of both your child and the team(s) on which he/she participates is vital to not only the success of the team, but the overall experience your son/daughter will have while they are involved in interscholastic athletics. Summerville High School greatly appreciates your support of our sports' teams.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARENTS DURING COMPETITIONS

1. **Let our Coaches Coach.**

We work tirelessly to hire and support our athletic coaches. A steady stream of instruction during a game/match is distracting to your son/daughter as well as his/her teammates. Your words may be in conflict with the coach's instructions and game plans. This will only lead to confusion and diminish the competitive potential of our team.

2. **Let our Officials Officiate.**

Parents that loudly harass the referee are embarrassing to the team, our players, and our reputation in the community and state. You may disagree with a referee's decision, but remember that they are human, and, as such, will make mistakes from time to time. It is the responsibility of the Summerville HS Head Coach to dispute calls made in error.

If a referee is being yelled at by a parent for a bad call, a poor example is being set for our student-athletes. Summerville High School emphasizes sportsmanship among all of its athletes, and witnessing adults yell at officials contradicts the lessons our coaches are trying to teach their players.

One of the benefits of playing sports is learning to accept responsibility instead of making excuses. Sometimes a bad call is hard to swallow. Such times are tests of emotional control and the internal grit of our student-athletes. If a player can learn to accept and overcome an official's error and he/she can work, together with their teammates, to win in spite of a poor call(s) then they have learned a valuable life lesson.

SIT BACK AND ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE. MANY PARENTS WOULD LOVE TO BE IN YOUR SHOES.

DORCHESTER DISTRICT TWO ATHLETICS PARTICIPATION PACKET

Student-athletes and parents must submit the Dorchester School District Two Athletic Participation Packet annually to be eligible to participate in sports. The packet consists of the following:

- Physical Examination Form (to be completed by a physician)
- Medical History Form (to be completed and signed by a parent)
- Concussion Acknowledgment Form (to be signed by a parent and the student-athlete)
- Parent Permission to Participate Form (to be sign by a parent)

*All of these documents should be uploaded to the student-athletes account on www.planeths.com. Kelli Wheeler manages this system and can be reached at kwheeler@dorchester2.k12.sc.us or 843-873-6460, x51060.

**A hard copy of these documents is in the back of this handbook and available at http://www.edlinesites.net/files/NFHdC/8476d6ee5cc1bdfe3745a49013852ec4/Athletic_Participation_Packet.pdf.

SUMMERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS TEAMS AND HEAD COACHES

FALL

Cross Country (7-12)
Girls Golf (7-12)
Girls Tennis (7-12)
Varsity Volleyball (7-12)
JV Volleyball (7-10)
Swimming (7-12)
Varsity Cheer (7-12)
JV Cheer (7-10)
Varsity Football (9-12)
JV Football (7-10)
B-Team Football (7-9)

COACHES

Kelly Hazel
Thomas “Wes” Mitchell
Mary Causey
Karri Killen
Julie Merritt
Theresa Hagan
Ashley Jacobs
TBA
Joe Call
Burt Bazzle
Alan Bridges

WINTER

Boys Varsity Basketball (7-12)
JV Boys Basketball (7-10)
Girls Varsity Basketball (7-12)
Girls JV Basketball (7-10)
Varsity Wrestling (9-12)
JV Wrestling (7-10)

David Long
Tyler Clark
Calvin Davis

Darryl Tucker

SPRING

Varsity Baseball (7-12)
JV Baseball (7-10)
B-Team Baseball (7-9)
Varsity Softball (7-12)
JV Softball (7-10)
Boys/Girls Track (7-12)
Boys Golf (7-12)
Boys Tennis (7-12)
Boys Varsity Soccer (9-12)
Boys JV Soccer (7-10)
Girls Varsity Soccer (9-12)
Girls JV Soccer (7-10)

Royce “Bo” Charpia
Michael Kacer
Michael Monnet
Heather Tucker
Cassandra Tucker
Kevin Bellush
Thomas “Wes” Mitchell
Jesse Gladis
Jason Rasner
Daniel Gronert
Holly Gunio
James Adamites

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

All student-athletes grades 7-12 should be familiar with the eligibility rules required by the South Carolina High School League (SCHSL). Copies of all regulations are available in the Athletic Director's office as well as the SCHSL's website:

www.schsl.org

Academic eligibility is an integral part of the entire eligibility process and a student-athlete must meet the standards set forth by the SCHSL before participation is granted. The regulations are contained within the SCHSL handbook in the athletic office and must be verified for each student-athlete by the Athletic Director and head coaches each season.

Below are some of the main points in regards to academic eligibility. For a complete list of guidelines pertaining to athletic eligibility please visit:

www.schsl.org

- I. To participate in interscholastic athletic activities, students in grades 9-12 must achieve an overall passing average in addition to the following:
 1. To be eligible in the first semester a student must pass a minimum of five Carnegie units applicable toward a high school diploma during the previous year. At least two units must have been passed during the second semester or summer school.
 2. To be eligible during the second semester the student must meet one of the following conditions:
 - a. If the student met first semester eligibility requirements then he or she must pass the equivalent of four, $\frac{1}{2}$ units during the first semester.
 - b. If the student did not meet first semester eligibility requirements then he or she must pass the equivalent of five, $\frac{1}{2}$ units during the first semester.
 3. Students must satisfy eligibility requirements in the semester preceding participation.
 - a. Credits earned in a summer school approved by the State Department of Education may apply for first semester eligibility. A maximum of two units per year may be used.
 - b. Students eligible for a first semester sport will be permitted to complete that sport even if it extends into the second semester.
- II. A student may not have reached the age of 19 prior to July 1.
- III. Students may only participate in athletics for 8 consecutive semesters following the student's enrollment in ninth grade.

COLLEGE PLANNING and SCHOLARSHIPS

College planning for student-athletes is no different than for any other student. Student-athletes are encouraged to begin college planning as early as possible during high school. Colleges and universities consider scholastic record, class rank, standardized test scores, recommendations and co-curricular participation in the admission process. Early planning is essential to maximize one's position for acceptance to college.

A strong four-year academic program is recommended for the majority of colleges. Highly competitive colleges have special admissions requirements. This information is available from the Summerville High School Counseling Department. As a general guideline, families should start actively looking for specific colleges no later than the student's junior year. Our School Counseling Department provides information regarding the timetable for taking standardized tests related to college admission. Athletic scholarships from various colleges and universities are offered to student-athletes who excel in athletics and/or academics. The high school coaching staff does assist in this process by providing requested information and personal recommendations based on their professional knowledge of our athletes. High school coaches do not "get" the scholarships for their athletes. The athlete must satisfy criteria established for such grants. Outstanding athletes with strong academic performance will have an advantage in the scholarship process. Summerville High School does take great pride in the achievements of its student-athletes and the coaching staff makes every effort to assist students in receiving financial aid.

Interscholastic athletics rank among the most effective means in the educational program through which positive lifelong experiences are available. Additionally, athletics often serves as a means of developing "the whole student". While interscholastic athletics are by nature competitive, they are above all intended to be enjoyable. Athletic scholarships are very, very difficult to achieve (in fact, there are more academic scholarships/grants awarded annually nationwide than athletic). Encourage and support your child to work hard academically and let athletics run its natural course. Putting pressure on your son/daughter to perform well in hopes of earning an athletic scholarship will often have the adverse effect of leading to poor performance by your child. In this day and age, college recruiters will be in contact if your son/daughter's athletic talents warrant a scholarship. But until that moment happens, encourage your child to enjoy the moments and memories that participation in interscholastic athletics creates.

Should participation in athletics at the collegiate level be a goal for your child, please become very familiar with the academic requirements associated with athletic scholarships. Please feel free to contact our School Counseling Department with questions you may have. Also, many questions you may have on this topic can be found by visiting:

www.eligibilitycenter.org

HELPFUL HINTS FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS TO PREPARE FOR COLLEGE

1. Take a challenging academic load. Take courses that will be helpful in preparing you for the college experience.
2. Stay in close contact with your guidance counselor, particularly during your junior and senior years.
3. Explore information available in the guidance office concerning college visitations, scholarships, and special programs.
4. Look for colleges that match your academic and athletic abilities. Ask your coach to evaluate your ability, and provide input on the best fit for you.
5. Attend college nights or college fairs – NCAA Eligibility Night is held on an announced date every September at Summerville High School.
6. Visit colleges that interest you.
7. Gather information about college admission requirements.
8. Ask your coach and school counselor for college recruiting information.
9. Investigate financial aid opportunities.
10. Involve your family in your decisions.

Take pride in your academic record. Keep in mind that colleges will be evaluating you as a person, as well as a student-athlete. Your conduct both in and out of school and on social media is important.

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE ISSUES & ELIGIBILITY

A student athlete must be in good standing in regards to school/district disciplinary codes. School Administration may remove a student from a team for a period of time, if deemed necessary.

Students who accumulate 3 suspensions during the school year put their continued eligibility for athletics at risk. Following 3 school suspensions, students will face team based consequences.

Students who are recommended for expulsion will be ineligible for athletics regardless of the outcome of the expulsion hearing.

Students who are charged with a crime in the community will be ineligible for athletics until adjudication of the charges.

Students on the suspended list may not participate in any school related activities until completion of the suspension is satisfied. No practice or participation may occur on the day(s) of the school suspension.

Fighting during a contest is strictly forbidden. Since athletic contests are a school function, a student-athlete involved in a fight during an athletic activity is subject to the same discipline as if they were in school or on a field trip. After an investigation of a fighting incident, consequences will be determined by the Head Coach, Athletic Director and Assistant Principal and may include suspension from the team.

Hazing or intimidation of another student-athlete (regardless of the student's willingness to participate) is strictly forbidden and violates BOE Policy.

Please refer to the Student Handbook (available on the district's website) for more specifics regarding discipline and athletic participation.

ATTENDANCE RULES FOR ATHLETES

Participation in interscholastic athletics at Summerville High School is a privilege granted by the Board of Education and along with this privilege and its benefits come certain responsibilities, which every athlete must accept.

The student-athlete must recognize that the primary reason for attending school is to become an educated person and a responsible citizen.

The student-athlete must conduct themselves in the community in a manner which will bring credit to their family, school, and team.

Students who are repeatedly absent or tardy to school/class are in conflict with the expectations of the school and the athletic department. Head Coaches and the Athletic Director may administer consequences, up to and including removal from the team, for student who demonstrate a pattern of tardiness or unexcused absences from school/class.

It is expected that all athletes will participate in all practices and games, adhere to all rules set forth by the school, the Athletic Department, and their individual coaches. Student-Athletes are to conduct themselves in an exemplary manner at all times. Those who do not will be subject to appropriate discipline. The following are basic guidelines for offenses and consequences:

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FROM PRACTICE

First Violation - Coach records the violation and the penalty is up to the discretion of the coach.

Second Violation - The athlete will not participate in the next game or contest.

All players are expected at all practices and games, including those scheduled during the times when school is not in session. Athletes should notify their coaches at least one week prior to an expected absence. It is expected, however, that no athlete will be absent from games or contests

IN-SEASON FAMILY AND/OR NON-TEAM COMMITMENTS

An athletic season is defined as the first permitted practice date as established by the SCHSL Rules and Regulations to the last scheduled contest and/or league, county, state or national tournament contest. In order to be eligible for a varsity letter, an athlete must be on the team and in good standing at the end of the season. It is the goal of the athletic department to encourage regular and forthright communication between and among student-athletes, coaches and parents. With this in mind, athletes and parents are to communicate with the head coach prior to the beginning of each season any family and/or club athletic commitments that may occur during the season.. If a student-athlete chooses to miss any contest or competition during an athletic season to fulfill a non-school organization commitment, the athlete may forfeit the right to a varsity letter at the discretion of the coach.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION EXCUSES

Athletes are not excused from Physical Education classes for any reason including the day of games. Athletes, after presenting the situation to the instructor, may be excused from strenuous activity (i.e. prolonged running) at the discretion of the instructor. Athletes excused from Physical Education class with a medical note may NOT participate in practices or games on their respective teams.

TRANSPORTATION

All athletes are expected to arrive and return to the school as part of the team. A coach may allow a student-athlete to return home from an away event only after a parental release form is submitted to the coach (head coaches have discretion to manage this as they see fit). At this point, the parent of that child will assume all responsibility. At no time are students allowed to drive themselves to or from athletic contests. We encourage all team members, whenever possible, to use the assigned school transportation. This promotes team unity and ensures proper supervision.

a.) Any athlete who requires transportation from an away contest by a parent should have the parent sign the appropriate form/ complete the appropriate process with the head coach.

b.) Players being excused from academic classes are responsible for any assignment or work missed in that particular class. Students who repeatedly fail to make up work missed while traveling for athletics may face team consequences, including not being allowed to leave early for athletic contests.

c.) A coach may transport student-athletes in special circumstances if the numbers are too low to warrant the scheduling of a bus.

The Athletic Director and members of the coaching staff strongly encourage all student-athletes to ride district transportation when provided for safety reasons as well as team chemistry and camaraderie.

ACCIDENT/INCIDENT REPORT

Any student-athlete injured during a practice, game or any activity affiliated with their sport *must* report the accident/incident to his/her coach and the Athletic Trainer at the time of the injury.

INJURIES

Any student-athlete who has presented an injury may be held out of practice until clearance by a physician. All communication related to injuries should go through the head athletic trainer Scott Little (slittle@dorchester2.k12.sc.us). The Athletic Trainers at Summerville High School have sole discretion, based on medical information available to them from the student-athlete's physician, to clear a player to return from injury.

ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT

All equipment and uniform items distributed by coaches is marked by name/number for the purpose of maintaining accurate records. Any equipment or uniforms issued to athletes will be recorded on an inventory distribution form to be used by coaches for collection purposes at the conclusion of the season.

Athletes will be held accountable for any lost, stolen, or damaged merchandise and must pay the *replacement* charge for that item(s). If a financial obligation is turned in that student may not participate in any other activities, at the discretion of the Principal, until the obligation is settled.

School-issued equipment should be secured at all times. Do not leave game gear in unlocked lockers. Again, lost, stolen or damaged equipment is the responsibility of the student-athlete and he/she will be charged the replacement cost.

TEAM CAPTAINS

Coaches may use various methods for selecting captains for their team. Individual(s) selected should exemplify leadership qualities and strong communication skills. Additionally, captains may be asked to meet periodically with the Athletic Director and other administrators to discuss a variety of topics pertaining to our school and athletic community.

VALUABLES/SECURITY

Team members should be made aware of the responsibility for securing valuables. Since many teams dress away from home, coaches must establish security procedures to prevent loss of valuables. Student athletes should not bring anything of value to away contests or leave in the school locker room unattended.

SUMMER BREAK

Many sports have workouts during the summer, as such is allowed by the SCHSL. A student-athlete is free to participate in as many activities as he or she chooses. Non-participation in any summer workouts does not affect the student-athlete's status on the team when the "in season" period begins. A physical must be on file before participation in summer workouts is permitted. In some cases, parent permission forms may also be required for a student's involvement in certain summer athletic activities (ex. summer leagues, off site camps).

VARSITY LETTERS

Each Varsity Head Coach at Summerville High School will set forth the requirements for a varsity letter and communicate those requirements to parents and student-athletes at the start of each season. Such requirements can include, but not be limited to, playing time, contribution to team goals, end of the year statistics, and advancement in state tournament play. A coach may take injuries, etc. into account when awarding letters. The head coach for each sport may use his/ her discretion when awarding varsity letters.

TEAM SCHEDULES

You can access a team's schedule any time on the Summerville High School Athletics website.

www.summervilleathletics.com