

STATESBORO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC HANDBOOK



2019-20

A resource book for SHS Student Athletes and Parents

Statesboro High School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Chad Prosser
Principal
10 Lester Road
Statesboro, GA 30458
912-212-8860

Phillip Tremble
HR Director
150 Williams Road Suite A
Statesboro, GA 30458
912-212-8510

Head Coaching Staff 2019-2020

Fall Teams

Football – Jeff Kaiser - jkaiser@bullochschools.org
Softball - Jim Simmons - jwsimmons@bullochschools.org
Cross Country - Scott Palmer - spalmer@bullochschools.org
Cheerleading- Competition & Football - Liz Driggers - ldriggers@bullochschools.org
Wrestling- Bo Viness – bviness@bullochschools.org
Volleyball- Bob Masee - bmasee@bullochschools.org

Winter Teams

Boys' Basketball- Lee Hill - lhill@bullochschools.org
Girls' Basketball- Jeff Seier - jseier@bullochschools.org
Swimming- Steven Jarrell - sjarrell@bullochschools.org
Rifle Team- Eric Heffner – eheffner@bullochschools.org
Basketball Cheer - Ashley Thompson - athompson@bullochschools.org

Spring Teams

Baseball- Jim Simmons - jwsimmons@bullochschools.org
Boys' Track – TBD
Girls' Track – TBD
Boys' Tennis- Iesha Baldwin - ibaldwin@bullochschools.org
Girls' Tennis - Brian Hall - bhall@bullochschools.org
Boys' Soccer- TBD
Girls' Soccer- Nick Thrower - nthrower@bullochschools.org

Boys' Golf- Thomas Miller - tmiller@bullochschools.org
Girls' Golf- Steven Jarrell - sjarrell@bullochschools.org

Chad Prosser - Principal

Patrick Hill - Athletic Director

Susan Beasley - Administrative Assistant for Athletics

Purpose of Handbook

It is the purpose of this handbook to set forth the operating procedures for the students, parents, and athletic staff at Statesboro High School. It is hoped that a ready reference such as this handbook will facilitate the process of seeking information about administrative policies and procedures as well as provide a framework within which the athletic department will operate smoothly and efficiently.

We believe as research indicates that students who are involved in co-curricular activities have a greater chance of success in school as well as in life. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant in high school athletics are the exact same ones that will mean a successful life after high school. We hope the information contained in this handbook will make you and your child's experiences at SHS more enjoyable.

Administration and Supervision of Games

Security and Supervision of games are very important. The Athletic Director will work closely with each individual coach to insure that a plan is developed by each sport to ensure proper supervision of student athletes until they leave the campus. Naturally, school administrators cannot possibly attend every event throughout the course of the school year. Therefore it becomes important to develop a sound supervisory plan between staff and coaches to ensure the safety of the student-athlete.

It is important to realize that participation on any athletic team is a privilege and that the viewing of athletic contests is also a privilege. Any action that substantially interferes with the normal course of a game or match by a parent of player will result in suspension of that person and/or removal from the campus.

Academics and Athletics

The number one reason that student athletes are at SHS is to succeed academically. While athletic teams are important co-curricular activities, they will always take the back seat to academics. Therefore, all problems that arise will be viewed through an academic lens before any solutions are contemplated. Please note this statement before any actions are taken and please understand that the administration at Statesboro High School will always look at what is best for the student from an academic perspective.

Clearinghouse

The NCAA clearinghouse is a service provided to potential college bound athletes to ease their transition to college athletics. It is mandatory that students seeking to play college athletics go through the clearinghouse. The guidance office at Statesboro High School has many helpful publications concerning the NCAA clearinghouse. Coach Karry Parker has worked closely with the clearinghouse and is a valuable resource which parents may use in the completion of this task. Parents of students interested in playing sports on any collegiate level will need to see a representative in the schools' guidance office to meet these prerequisites. There is also information online at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net

Discipline and Team Membership

Participation in extra-curricular activities at Statesboro High School is a privilege. Coaches will maintain discipline within their programs. Any misbehavior during the school day, off campus or on school sponsored activities may result in removal from the team. The head coach will be responsible for making that decision based on the facts of each individual case.

GHSA Eligibility Requirements

For updated eligibility requirements, go to

<https://www.ghsa.net/sites/default/files/documents/Constitution/Constitution2017-18Complete.pdf>

1.21 To be eligible to participate and/or try-out for a sport or activity, a student must be enrolled full time in grades 9-12 inclusive at the school seeking eligibility for that student.

(a) Enrollment is defined as follows:

(1) Fall Semester: when the student participates in a practice or contest before classes begin, or the student attends classes.

(2) Spring Semester: when the student attends classes.

(3) A student may be enrolled in only one (1) high school at a time.

(b) The student must be in regular attendance.

(c) The student must be taking courses that total at least 2.5 Units that count toward graduation.

1.53 Students must **accumulate Carnegie units towards** graduation according to the following criteria:

(a) **First-year students** (entering 9th grade) are eligible academically. Second semester **first-year students** must have **passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units** the previous semester in order to participate.

(b) **Second-year students** must have **accumulated five (5) total Carnegie units** in the first year, **AND passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units** in the previous semester.

(c) **Third-year students** must have **accumulated eleven (11) Carnegie units** in the first and second years, **AND passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units** in the previous semester.

(d) **Fourth-year students** must have **accumulated seventeen (17) Carnegie units** in the first three years, **AND passed courses carrying at least 2.5 Carnegie units** in the previous semester.

(e) Students may accumulate the required Carnegie units for participation during the school year and eligibility will be reinstated at the beginning of the next semester.

1.52 Students gain or lose eligibility on the first day of the subsequent semester. The first day of the fall semester shall be interpreted as the first date of practice for the first sport.

(a) Exception: Students who successfully complete summer school to maintain eligibility become eligible the last day of summer school.

(1) Summer school is an extension of the previous semester and courses may be:

a. remedial in nature where a previously-taken course is repeated in its entirety with a new grade being given.

b. enrichment in nature where a new course is taken that results in new credit being earned.

(2) A maximum of two (2) Carnegie unit credits earned in summer school may be counted for eligibility purposes. NOTE: Additional credits may be earned in credit recovery programs or make-up programs.

(3) Summer school credits earned in non-accredited home study programs or non-accredited private schools may not be used to gain eligibility. Accreditation recognized under the rule shall be from the Georgia Accrediting Commission (GAC) or a regional accreditation agency (such as SACS) or the Georgia Private School Accreditation Council (GAPSAC).

(4) An independent study course taken in summer school must be regionally accredited and accepted by the school system for graduation credit.

(b) Courses completed after the beginning of a new semester may not be used to gain eligibility for that semester. Example: night school classes, correspondence courses, etc.

(c) Independent study courses taken during the school year must meet the criteria of 1.52 (a) 4.

Lettering Policy

The determination of whether or not a letter is awarded to a student participating in a varsity sport is the responsibility of the head coach in each sport. Each coach will work with the athletic director to make sure the criteria for lettering are met. A student may be awarded a letter by completing the season in a varsity sport only and it should be earned through dedication and commitment to that sport and by making a significant contribution to the total team effort throughout the entire season. The criteria for lettering will be that the student completes the varsity season in good standing as determined by the head coach of the sport.

Each student that completes their team's season in good standing will be awarded either a:

- (1). Certificate of participation for Junior Varsity competition,
- (2). Certificate of participation for Varsity competition, or
- (3). Varsity letter for varsity competition

A student athlete will be awarded one letter jacket during their high school career when the student athlete has earned two varsity letters in a sport. Letter jackets are ordered twice a year after school-wide fitting, and students must have paid their athletic fees for the letter jacket to be ordered. Any jacket ordered outside of the school-wide order will incur an additional fee from the athlete to cover the additional cost for the school. For students that letter in multiple sports, sport specific letters will be provided to the student and then they will be provided with bars for those letters for multiple years of earning a varsity letter in that sport. Seniors who have not previously lettered at Statesboro High School but letter their senior year and wish to have a jacket can obtain a jacket by paying $\frac{1}{2}$ the price of the jacket and the individual sport will pay for the other half of the jacket.

Multiple Sport Participation

Many of the athletes at Statesboro High School participate in more than one sport. This is encouraged. However, this becomes a problem when the sports overlap or are in the same season. For these sports, students must have the agreement of both coaches in order to participate in two sports in the same season. It is the general consensus of most coaches that this is not a problem. However, there will be some circumstances when it is very difficult to participate in two sports simultaneously. If one of the coaches does not agree with the terms the administration will inform the student of his/her need to pick one sport or the other or continue in the one sport to completion before starting the other.

Parent/Coach Communication

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to speak with the coach of their athlete's team with concerns they might have throughout the season. Our coaches want every player to have a positive learning experience being a part of our program. Healthy communication can play a vital role in the quality of each student-athlete's experience.

We do encourage players to have conversations with their coaches about any issues before a parent contacts the coach. Before approaching the coach, we ask that parents:

1. Ask your child. There is a good chance that they may be able to answer your question.
2. Be reasonable in trying to compare your child's playing time with another player.
3. If your concern is playing time, please remember that our coaches are doing what they believe is best for the program. Many times the parent may not agree with the coach. The conversation should focus on encouraging a method of getting the player closer to the level that everyone would like for him to be.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches

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

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. Team strategy
2. Play Calling
3. 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. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, the procedure you should follow is

1. Call to set up an appointment (Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this type do not promote resolution.)
2. If the coach does not return your call in an appropriate amount of time, call the Athletic office to help facilitate the meeting.
3. If meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution, call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation.

Off Season Practices

Those practices held during the off-season may not be mandatory or a prerequisite for participation. While rewards or incentives for attendance may be offered, participation in these practices may not be required. Please note that the GHSA does permit some off-season practices to occur in some sports. Please call the Athletic Director if you have any questions about these special instances. Visit <https://www.ghsa.net/sites/default/files/documents/Constitution/Constitution2017-18Complete.pdf> for more information.

Objective Criteria for Team Membership

Each athletic team at Statesboro High School will have in place the most objective method possible to pick teams for the sports that have tryouts to reach their final roster. The criteria for selection will be communicated to all potential team members prior to the beginning of any tryout sessions.

Participation Fee

The only fee associated with participation this year is a \$40 participation fee. The student athlete pays this one time per year no matter how many sports he/she participates in. The proceeds from this fee will be used for services for the students that participate in athletics at Statesboro High School. For example, this fee covered the entire cost of letter jackets for every sport at Statesboro High School. This money may also be used to defray the costs of the athletic training or other athletic expenses.

Pictures

BPI Photography has the photo contract with the SHS. This includes team sports pictures which are also the pictures that go in the yearbook. The head coach will contact BPI prior to the season to schedule a time that is conducive to both parties. If your team/boosters/parents desire for your team to also be photographed by a different group, that should be set up on a different day.

Required Athletic Forms

In order to try out for a sport, valid physical, insurance, permission, and concussion forms must be on file in the athletic office. These forms may be obtained from Mrs. Susan Beasley in the Athletic office or printed off of the athletics website, www.statesboroathletics.com. Once an athlete obtains a signed physical form from the doctor's office they should bring them directly to Mrs. Beasley in the athletic office. She will make a copy of the physical for the coach and keep the original filed in the athletic office.

Team Commitment

Being a part of a team carries with it the responsibility to be loyal to that team. Individuals should not be disparaging of the team or teammates in any form. Any actions by the student-athlete that bring a negative light to the team or school can lead to punishment from the head coach, including dismissal from the team.

Once a student-athlete commits to being a part of the team, he/she is expected to complete the season with the team. The student-athlete shall complete their commitment to one team/season before participating with a new team/season, unless mutually agreed upon by both head varsity coaches and the athletic director. Student-athletes that quit one sport may not participate in another sport until the season of the originally committed sport is completed.

Transportation

Students involved in all athletic activities at Statesboro High School will be provided transportation to and from all away events. The athletes at Statesboro High School will have a bus provided by the Bulloch County Board of Education and a trained driver to drive this bus. These buses routinely undergo inspections and are without a doubt the safest way for your son or daughter to get to and from events. Any parent wishing to not utilize the transportation to or from an event must have permission from the coach and an Extra-Curricular Transportation Release Form on file with the coach.