



SANDY VALLEY ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

5130 State Route 183 NE Magnolia, OH 44643
Athletic Department Phone (330) 866-3060

Student participation in the Sandy Valley athletic programs, including cheerleading, is a privilege and not a right. Students volunteer to participate in the extracurricular programs offered and are expected to accept the responsibilities granted them by this privilege. Through the years, we have enjoyed much success and we will try and continue our FIRST CLASS tradition. Our teams and individuals have earned recognition at league, district, regional, and state levels. The accomplishments are a true reflection of many hours of commitment from our school's community.

As representatives of our school, students involved in extracurricular activities are scrutinized by the public, become role models for children and peers, are ambassadors of our community. They have chosen to accept this role and with it the responsibilities of maintaining a drug, alcohol, and crime-free lifestyle. The role in contributing to such athletic tradition will not be easy. The contributions they make will undoubtedly be a source of satisfaction not only to the school, but to the athlete personally. Team members will adhere to the athletic rules, regulations and policies established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association, the Sandy Valley Local Schools, and Inter-Valley Conference. Violations of these guidelines will result in disciplinary action regardless of sport or level of competition.

This handbook does not supersede the general student handbook, but is enforced in addition to the student handbook. The athlete represents his/her team, school, parents, coach, community, and themselves. They are expected to conduct themselves in an exemplary manner at all times.

1. As a member of the team, a sincere sense of commitment and dedication to the coach, team, school, parents, and the time is important.
2. Regular and punctual attendance at practice and games are mandatory unless properly discussed prior with head coach.
3. Even if ill, athletes are expected to be present at school if they expect to have the opportunity to play in a contests or practice by 8:30 am with an excused absence note from parent/guardian. If after 8:30 am, a doctor's note is required. Situations which include extenuating circumstances will be reviewed and ruled on by the principal and/or the athletic director.



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Academic Eligibility

In order for students to be academically eligible for athletics, they must meet all of the age, enrollment, attendance, and scholastic requirements established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

Required Forms

1. Athletic Code of Conduct Form
2. The Ohio High School Athletic Association physical examination form with student, parent, and physician's signature. No athlete will be permitted to begin practice or competition without this form and filed with the Head Coach/Athletic Director. This physical is good for 1 calendar year.
3. Emergency Medical Form by the first day of official practice.
4. Insurance Waiver Form. Athletes must have the proper insurance coverage before they participate in practice sessions. Insurance can be obtained through school. Contact the Head Coach/ Athletic Director for information about school insurance.
5. Concussion Form

All required forms must be signed by parent/guardian and student athlete. The athlete will not be allowed to participate without all the forms signed and turned into the coach/athletic director.

Athletic Rules, Regulations, and Policies

I. Rationale

At Sandy Valley MS/Sr. High School, athletic coaches and activity sponsors have a unique opportunity to assist young people to discover and embrace his/her personal uniqueness and to adopt a positive life style. This personal uniqueness will contribute to the overall welfare of the students home, school and community. Sandy Valley Local Schools encourage the concept of holistic health and students to participate in the co-curricular activities. Our school believes that co-curricular activities have a positive impact on our students, families, community, coaches, advisors, and the entire Sandy Valley Local School District.



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II. Chemical , Alcohol, and Criminal Activity Policy

No Sandy Valley student athlete involved in extracurricular activities shall use or possess any of the following substances.

1. All dangerous controlled substances as so designated and prohibited by Ohio Statute
2. All chemicals which release toxic vapors
3. All alcoholic beverages
4. Any prescription, parent drugs, or any pseudo drug like substances
5. Any drug paraphernalia
6. Tobacco and tobacco products
7. Anabolic steroids

A. It is not a violation for a student to be in possession of legally defined drug specifically prescribed for the student's own used by his/her doctor. It is also not the intentions to limit religious observances and ceremonies which include the consumption of alcohol.

B. No Sandy Valley student in extracurricular activities shall sell, distribute, posses, or possess to sell or distribute any of the substances described in part II 1-7.

Penalties

1. **First Violation:** After confirmation of the first violation, the student will not be permitted to participate using the following formula. In all cases before the athlete can be reinstated to participate in any future athletic programs, the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the individual must meet with the school administrator(s), athletic director or coordinator, and head coach of the desired sport for the purpose of discussing any problems involved.

Formula for Athletic Suspension

<u>Sport</u>	<u>No. of contest</u>	<u>1st Violation: 10%</u>	<u>2nd Violation:</u>
<u>20%</u>			
Football	10	1 contest	2 contests
Cross Country	16	2 contests	4 contests
Golf	18	2 contests	4 contests
Volleyball	22	2 contests	4 contests
Basketball	22	2 contests	4 contests
Wrestling	20 pts	2 dual/tri/1 tourney	4 dual/2
tourneys			
Bowling	22	2 contests	4 contests
Gymnastics	12	1 contest	2 contests
Baseball	27	3 contests	6 contests
Softball	27	3 contests	6 contests
Track	16	2 contests	4 contests
Cheerleading	based on sport cheering season		



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2. **Second Violation:** After confirmation of the second violation in the same school year, the student will lose eligibility in the activity and/or sport for the 20% of season in which the student is a participant regardless of when the violation occurred.

3. **Third Violation:** If a student commits a third offense in the same school year, the individual will be excluded from all further participation in the Sandy Valley Local School District's co-curricular activities for one calendar year from the date of offense.

If there is not 10%, 20% of the season remaining, the percentage of the suspension not served shall be recalculated and applied toward tournament play and/or the next sport in which the student participates.

The following rules should be in effect at the beginning of the first formal practice (OHSAA date) or the first day of school year whichever comes first for the student athlete. They shall remain in effect until the last participation in a school sponsored event or last day of the school year, whichever is the latter of the two. Whether the student is "in" season or "out" season has no bearing on this code of conduct.

Reports of student athletic code infractions will be addressed and/or investigated when factual in nature and are brought to the attention of school personnel. Individual doing so will be called upon to substantiate their accusations. Events should be reported and investigated. However, the coaches and administrators are hesitant in becoming involved in investigation of unsubstantiated rumors or accusations.

III. Hazing, Harassment, Intimations, and Bullying

Student Athletes shall not be involved in any intentional written, verbal, graphic, or physical act.

1. Hazing means doing any act or coercing another including the victim to do any act or initiation into any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person (O.R.C.2903.31 (A)).

2. Harassment, intimidation, and bullying means any intentional written, verbal, electronic or physical act that a student has exhibited toward another particular student more than once and the behavior both:

a. Causes mental or physical harm to the other student.

b. Is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student.



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IV. Email and Websites

The SV athletic department has adopted the following policy regarding the use of e-mail messages, websites, blogs or other electronic communication:

- A. The use of e-mail messages, blogs, websites, or other electronic communications to make inflammatory or derogatory comments, and/or inappropriate descriptions or pictures regarding another team member, another student, a coach, another school team, or other staff member is strictly prohibited. For the purpose of this policy, inappropriate comments may include, but are not limited to inappropriate comments, pictures, or descriptions regarding another person's race, ethnic background, culture, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. This includes postings on Facebook, Twitter, or any other Social Networking sites. It also includes sending texts messages, picture messages, or e-mails.
- B. Student/Athletes are prohibited from using cellular telephones or other electronic communication devices or having them "ON" in any locker room. They must be turned "OFF" and not just in vibrate or silent mode. This includes the use of the camera feature available with some models of cellular telephones or other electronic devices.

Progressive Discipline for the above violation is as follows:

1. Single or multiple game suspension
2. Dismissal from the team
3. Possible consequences from the Sandy Valley Administration

At times coaches may text to contact students about team related matters. Coaches are responsible to not only text the athlete but a parent/guardian as well. A phone number for the athlete and a parent must be in a coaches group of numbers when texting. It is the responsibility of the athlete, parent/guardian to give the coach the phone numbers to contact.

V. Training and Team Rules

Each Sports coach will establish training/team rules pertinent to his/her sport will properly publicized rules to parents and athletes. Athletes are subject to disciplinary action for violating specific training rules or for violations of the Sandy Valley Student Code of Conduct. This may include denial of participation or dismissal from the team.



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VI. Quitting or Dismissal from a Team

Any athlete who quits a team after the first scheduled contest or is dismissed from a team must return all equipment issued to the athlete. The athlete is not permitted to begin practice or play with another Sandy Valley team or participate in an off-season conditioning program until after the last team contest is played by the team he/she quit or was removed. In unforeseen circumstances, coaches, Principal and Athletic Director may meet to evaluate situation.

VII. Athletic Awards Program

1st year: SV Varsity letter plus pin of sport

2nd year: Red and Silver certificate plus gold bar

3rd year: Plaque and gold bar

4th year: Combination picture/plaque plus gold bar

Reserve/Freshman/Middle School: Certificate of Participation

VIII. Requirements for Awards

To obtain a Varsity Award, an athlete must participate in:

- a. Minimum of one half the quarters in Football and B/G Basketball
- b. Involved in at least one half the matches or games in Golf, Softball, Baseball, Wrestling, Gymnastics and Volleyball

Earn points toward team total:

- a. B/G Cross Country: One point per meet...Points varies on # of meets
- b. B/G Track: One point per dual meets....Points varies on # of meets

If a student athlete sustains an injury that keeps him/her from meeting the requirements, the head coach, athletic director and principal will meet to discuss procedure. All awards should be obtained if athlete competes the season and all issued equipment/material must be handed in prior to award being issued.

A senior who participates at the varsity level but fails to meet the requirements for a letter in that sport, shall be granted a letter with good standing approval from head coach, athletic director and principal.



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Name of Student: _____ Current School Yr. _____ Grade _____

Specific Activity/Sport Which Participating: _____

Please Mark (X) One of the following below:

_____ Yes, I am open enrollment/transfer student to Sandy Valley Local Schools for the first time.
(we Suggest all parents and students visit with Guidance Counselor PRIOR to enrollment.)

_____ I have been a Sandy Valley Local Schools student the previous school year.

Verification:

I have received, read, and agree to the follow the Sandy Valley Athletic Code of Conduct as outlined in the Parent/Student-Athlete Handbook and the additional team guidelines given by the perspective coach to all participants in the athletic program. This copy will be used for the current school year for all activities in which your son/daughter may participate.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____