



SLSD STUDENT-ATHLETE HANDBOOK



Southwest Local School District
SOUTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT - 2023-24

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SLSD Student Athlete Handbook

Introduction

The purpose of this handbook is to give student-athletes and other interested individuals a guide to the operation of the interscholastic athletic program (grades 7-12) of the Southwest Local School District (SLSD).

Student-athletes and parents/guardians must understand it is a privilege to participate in the Harrison High School and Junior School athletic program. A condition to participating in the SLSD athletic program is a commitment to follow the rules, regulations, policies and procedures established by the District.

Student-athletes are obligated to conform to the SLSD Student Code of Conduct as established by the SLSD Board of Education and stipulated in the SLSD Student Handbook, as well as the Athletic Department substance abuse policies and any other policies established by the Athletic Department. Also, athletes are responsible for specific rules and regulations established by the coaches of each sport. It must be understood that student-athletes who violate regulations and policies shall face consequences.

Philosophy

The philosophy of the SLSD athletic program considers participation in sports to be an integral part of the District's educational program, providing experiences that will help student-athletes physically, mentally, socially and emotionally. We believe by promoting sportsmanship at all levels, the athletic program instills pride, reinforces a sound value structure and enhances the individual's self-image as well as the image of the school district and the community.

As a student-athlete, you are held to a higher standard in the classroom, community and in competition. Your actions reflect on others and you represent many parties including your family, the community, school district, coaches, teammates and alumni. The goal is for you to carry yourself with pride and wear the uniform proudly. As an athlete you have an opportunity to set a good example for those who follow you.

Mission Statement

The mission of SLSD athletics is to extend educational opportunities so students can compete in a manner that promotes personal development, fosters teamwork and teaches important life skills necessary for becoming a valued member of society.

Personal Development Achievements

- ✓ Physical development, strength and conditioning
- ✓ Developing individual skills
- ✓ Promoting a healthy lifestyle
- ✓ A drive to be your personal best
- ✓ Personal discipline and accepting responsibility for actions

Teamwork Qualities

- ✓ Promote a sense of community, being part of the 'big picture', a commitment to a cause
- ✓ Promote a team concept and the importance of team over individual accomplishments
- ✓ Responsibility to the team and being cooperative

Life Skills

- ✓ Learning how to compete
- ✓ Reinforce classroom learning and academic achievement
- ✓ Develop character and importance of diligence, dealing with success and failure
- ✓ Coach as counselor
- ✓ Appreciating others' strengths while tolerating shortcomings
- ✓ Leadership and cooperation
- ✓ Teaching tolerance and sportsmanship
- ✓ Social growth
- ✓ Handling conflict

Our Mission: "Academic and Social Growth for all students, every day!"

Our Motto: "Excellence through Relationships"

Our Core Values: "Trust, Respect, Ownership and Leadership"

We believe: Education needs to take a leadership role in improving society.

- In a working partnership among students, parents, staff and community that takes responsibility for learning and is committed to excellence in education.
- In providing the best possible learning environment by hiring, developing and retaining quality personnel.
- Quality education depends on appropriate educational resources.
- In our ever-changing society, students need experiences that include the basics and provide activities to develop problem solving, decision making and creative thinking skills.
- In maximizing students' potential, recognizing their differences and adapting the overall learning process to meet individuals' need.
- Education is a lifelong process that occurs both inside and outside the classroom.
- In promoting independent learning through discipline, motivation and high expectations.
- In promoting and improving positive self-esteem.
- In teaching democratic principles that promote good character and citizenship.
- In providing activities/programs that help develop well-rounded students who can cope with everyday pressures.
- In instilling recognition of and respect for the rights, thoughts, feelings and contributions of others.
- In the continuous evaluation and revitalization of the educational system.

Fight Song

*Cheer, cheer for Harrison High
Shout out the echoes up to the sky.
Send our volley cheers on high,
Shake down the thunder from the sky.
Though our foes be great or be small,
The Green and the White will win over all.
And our loyal team will bring
Honor to Harrison High.*

Alma Mater

*Alma Mater Green & White, hail to thee.
Hold your guiding torch aloft, light our way.
Those who went before us,
Beckon to our loyal hearts.
Come in faith and courage, may honor guide your way.
To our alma mater, Harrison, our honor now we give.
You've given us your high ideals we'll cherish all our
years.
True knowledge noble work to do when from our halls
we go,
True wisdom noble lives to live, to your glory, Harrison.*

SLSD Interscholastic Athletics

The Board of Education recognizes the value of a program of interscholastic athletics to the students of the District and to the community as an integral part of the total school experience.

For purposes of this policy, the program of interscholastic athletics shall include all sanctioned activities relating to competitive sport contests, games, events or sport exhibitions involving individual students or teams of students of this District with those of another district.

The Superintendent shall annually present to the Board any changes in the program of interscholastic athletics as well as the anticipated costs and number of students to be served by the program. SLSD offers the following interscholastic teams: Soccer, Cross Country, Tennis, Golf, Basketball, Track & Field, Football, Swimming, Wrestling, Bowling, Volleyball (girls), Softball (girls), Baseball (boys), Cheer, Academics.

Since the primary purpose of the athletic program is to enhance the education of participating students as indicated by this policy, the Board places top priority on maximum student participation and the values of good sportsmanship, team play and fair competition.

The Board shall determine the standards of eligibility to be met by all students participating in the interscholastic program. Such standards shall require that each student be in good physical condition, free of injury and fully recovered from illness before participating in any interscholastic athletic event. Student-athletes must adhere to the eligibility requirements established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA.org).

Students identified as disabled under Ohio Revised Code 3323 (Education of Children with Disabilities) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) are subject to the eligibility standards established by this policy unless specifically exempted by the express terms of their individualized education program (IEP). An IEP can specify the criteria by which a grade will be determined for (a) course(s), given the individualized student's disability.

SLSD shall develop appropriate administrative guidelines and will abide by OHSAA rules and regulations for the operation of the interscholastic athletic program which provide for the following safeguards:

- A. Prior to participating in any sport, each participant shall submit to a thorough physical examination by a licensed physician.

B. Prior to participating in any sport, parents shall report any past or current health problems along with a physician's statement that any such problems have or are being treated and pose no threat to the student's participation.

C. Any student who is found to have a health condition which may be life-threatening to self or others shall not be allowed to participate until the situation has been analyzed by a medical professional that has determined the conditions under which the student may participate. The District shall assume no liability for any student with a health condition who has been authorized to play by the parents and their physicians but not by the District.

D. Any student who incurs an injury requiring a physician's care is to have the written approval of a physician prior to the student's return to participation.

E. All staff members serving as coaches or advisers will have state-mandated first aid and safety training. In order to minimize health and safety risks to student-athletes and maintain ethical standards, school personnel, coaches and athletic trainers shall not dispense, supply, recommend, or permit the use of any drug, medication or food supplement solely for performance-enhancing purposes.

F. Any student practicing for or competing in an interscholastic event whom exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury shall be removed from the practice or competition by the student's coach, athletic trainer and/or the referee serving during the practice or competition.

Any student who has been removed from practice or competition by a coach or referee because they have exhibited signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury shall not be permitted to return to any practice or competition for which the coach or referee is responsible until the student receives written clearance that it is safe to return to practice or competition from a physician or certified athletic trainer, in accordance with requirements set forth in Ohio R.C. 3313.539(E)(2)*, to grant such a clearance.

SLSD shall also develop an Athletic Code of Conduct and guidelines for ensuring that sportsmanship, ethics and integrity characterize how the athletic program is conducted and the actions of students who participate. Such guidelines should include:

A. Criteria for judging these important qualities.

B. Procedures by which these values are communicated to students, parents and supporters.

C. A means for ensuring that the behavior of these groups reflect high standards. In order to be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics, students and their parents must sign the Athletic Code of Conduct. SLSD Administration is authorized to implement suitable consequences for those who violate this Athletic Code.

In order to support the OHSA's program to strengthen sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity, SLSD commits itself to recognize and support students, coaches and school administrators who demonstrate these traits and to confirm the value of school athletic activities as a vital part of education.

Students will be informed that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege and not a right. Students may be suspended or excluded from participation by authorized school personnel for any violation of the Student or Athletic Code of Conduct or violations of published rules and regulations established by individual coaches or sponsors.

Before a suspension is imposed pursuant to this policy, SLSD Administration shall provide notice to the student-athlete of the intent to suspend from participation in interscholastic athletics which shall include the reason for the intended suspension and the exact conditions of the suspension. [*Section 3313.539 - Ohio Revised Code | Ohio Laws](#)

Sportsmanship

One of our goals is to develop student-athletes who demonstrate good sportsmanship. We believe that the basic rules of good sportsmanship consist of:

- ✓ Showing respect for opponents, officials and their decisions.
- ✓ Knowing, understanding and following the rules of the contest.
- ✓ Maintaining self-control.
- ✓ Recognizing and appreciating skill in performances regardless of affiliation.
- ✓ We believe that being a spectator is a privilege and not a right. It is a privilege to watch an educational process where teams demonstrate what they have learned in the athletic classroom.
- ✓ Spectators will be held accountable for good sportsmanship.
- ✓ While SLSD takes great pride in winning, it does not condone winning at all cost and discourages any approach which neglects good sportsmanship and good mental health.

Title IX Statement

It is the policy of SLSD School District that educational activities, employment, programs and services are offered without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, handicap or age. This policy of non-discrimination is in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The District's Title IX coordinator is Superintendent John Hamstra. Grievance procedures exist and are available from the District's administration office.

SLSD Coaching Standards

This document is designed to provide all SLSD coaches with a common coaching frame of reference. These points of emphasis are to be considered guidelines in teaching interscholastic sports within the SLSD School District.

Learning is the core of all SLSD interscholastic athletic endeavors. SLSD coaches are expected to teach the fundamentals of the sport.

SLSD coaches are expected to be exemplary role models both in and out of the athletic arena and leaders of young people in every sense of the word. Reinforcement of sportsmanship is critical.

SLSD coaches are expected to communicate with the parents/guardians of their student-athletes. All parent/guardian phone calls are expected to be returned within 24 hours. SLSD coaches are expected to hold pre-season parent meetings to communicate team policies, the coach's philosophy, substance abuse policy information and all other logistical information specific to the program. This is where the ground rules for parental communications are outlined.

Student-athletes should be coached from a constructive perspective. Demeaning the efforts of a young person does not reinforce learning and has no place in SLSD. Student-athletes should never be ridiculed, especially in front of their peers.

Profanity by any coach is unacceptable. It has no place in education.

SLSD coaches need to be sensitive to the diversity of our student-athletes. Multi-cultural and socio-economic differences give student-athletes a wide variety of perceptions.

Casual remarks or comments made in front of a diverse group of student-athletes may be offensive or hurtful to some young people. Coaches are strongly encouraged to be sensitive to all the student-athletes under their direction.

SLSD coaches are expected to be consistent with discipline. Inconsistency leaves a coach open to charges of favoritism and undermines the morale of the squad.

Keep a perspective on the grade level and who is being coached. Intensity levels of coaching should be commensurate with the age of the student-athletes. An overzealous approach can take the fun out of a sport.

SLSD coaches are expected to be punctual for all practices, meetings and contests; to be thoroughly prepared for practices and contests; to dress appropriately for practices and contests.

SLSD coaches are expected to be familiar with District policies on fundraising and financial accountability procedures.

When teams are selected through a tryout, SLSD coaches must ensure that student-athletes who are not part of the team are given the opportunity to understand the reasons and what they can do to improve.

SLSD coaches should be familiar with applicable Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) bylaws regarding eligibility, contest restrictions and non-contact periods. If unclear on a policy or procedure, SLSD coaches should refer to the SLSD Coaches Handbook and/or their respective Athletic Director.

Coaches should refer all injuries to the certified athletic trainer for proper evaluation and not attempt to diagnose or treat injuries. Coaches should respect the medical decisions of the certified athletic trainers, especially when determining whether a player should return to competition.

Individual Sports Rules

Coaches will establish additional rules and regulations for their respective sports. Penalties will be designated/handled by the respective coaches. The exception is prohibitions previously addressed in this document.

The Role of Parents in Interscholastic Athletics

First and foremost, support your child's effort in the classroom by being helpful and encouraging. Make sure your children know you love them, appreciate their hard work and are proud of them. This will allow them to do their best without fear of failure. Be the person in their life they can look to for constant positive reinforcement.

Try your best to be completely honest about your child's athletic ability, competitive attitude and sportsmanship. Avoid comparing the skill, courage or attitude of your child with others. Teach them to enjoy the thrill of competition and the importance of working hard to improve skills and attitudes. Support good conditioning and a healthy lifestyle.

Reliving your athletic life through your child can create undue pressure. Students with athletic skills need support. Remember, there is a thinking, feeling, sensitive individual in that uniform who needs a lot of understanding. If they are comfortable with you win or lose, then they are on their way to maximum achievement and enjoyment.

Get to know the coaching staff so you can understand the philosophy, attitudes, ethics and knowledge at the foundation of the program. If your child receives messages from different authority figures it can create a confusing atmosphere.

Remember children tend to exaggerate when both praised and criticized. Temper your reaction and investigate before reacting. Athletes often define criticism as being demeaning.

Make a point of understanding courage and the fact that it is relative. At some point, everyone is frightened and can experience fear. Explain that courage is a means of doing something in spite of apprehension.

Be sure to attend all required meetings and read all information regarding athletics participation. Playing time is not guaranteed by paying a participation fee. Participation is a privilege.

Communication You Should Expect from Your Coach

- Coaching Philosophy
- Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all players on the squad
- Digital communication policy
- Locations and times of all practices and contests
- Team requirements, such as fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning, etc.
- Procedure should your child be injured
- Rules and regulations that result in the denial of your child's participation

Communication Coaches Should Expect from Parents

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance
- Specific concerns regarding a coach's philosophy and/or expectations

Appropriate Discussions with Coaches

- The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
- Ways to help your child improve
- Concerns about your child's behavior

Inappropriate Matters for Discussion with Coaches

- Team strategy; play calling; other student athletes

Procedure for Discussions with Coaches

The very first step in discussing a coaching concern is to meet with a member of the coaching staff. Communicate with honesty, respect and in a timely manner.

Call to set up an appointment with the coach. Contact the athletic administrator to set up the meeting if unable to reach the coach. Game days and practices are not appropriate times to discuss concerns. The following is the sequence for parent/guardians in addressing concerns:

1. Position or Head Coach at student-athlete's level of play
2. Head Coach of the Varsity program
3. Athletic Director at level of play
4. Building Administration at level of play
5. District Administration

Parent/Guardian Personal Conduct Expectations

Respect the officials, opponents, players and coaches. Refrain from coaching from the stands. Be a role model for fans and student-athletes and be involved in a positive manner. This reflects positively on all parties involved.

Any fan who is ejected from a contest is subsequently restricted from attending the following two contests, home and away. If the ejection occurs in the final contest of a season, the suspension will carry-over to the following school year if applicable.

A second ejection in a season will result in suspension for the remainder of the season. Any further suspensions will result in additional restrictions and may include all contests in a calendar year.

Athletic Code of Conduct

In keeping with Board policy and the guidelines of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA), student-athletes are expected to fulfill their role in providing for an athletic program that is based on exemplary sportsmanship and behavior. Any athlete whose conduct is judged to reflect adversely on themselves, the team or school, will be subject to consequences.

Points of Emphasis for Student-Athletes

- ✓ SLSD Student Code of Conduct is part of the SLSD Student Handbook
- ✓ Attendance at team practices and meetings; following team rules and policies
- ✓ Appropriate Conduct: Trust, Respect, Ownership, Leadership
- ✓ Regulations and policies as set forth by the Ohio High School Athletic Association
- ✓ SLSD substance abuse policies
- ✓ Violations of the Ohio Revised Code which are criminal in nature and cited as a charge other than a minor misdemeanor

Communication

The athletic values of SLSD shall be communicated to student-athletes, parents, and supporters through various means – Sports Information Night - including this handbook, along with information provided to all student-athletes on the District's websites.

Discipline of Athletes

Consequences will be implemented by the Coach in accordance with school and team rules. In the event a coach is recommending dismissal from the team, before disciplinary action is imposed, a coach shall provide notice to the student-athlete of the intent to dismiss regarding his or her participation in extracurricular activities, which shall include the reason for the dismissal. The student-athlete has the option to appeal the decision to the building Athletic Director. If necessary, a final appeal can be made to the building Principal.

Conduct, Character and Insubordination

In matters pertaining to personal conduct in which athletics are not involved, the school itself is to be the sole judge as to whether the pupil may play on its teams. In matters pertaining to personal conduct in which athletics are involved, violations of sportsmanship, attacks on officials and other acts of misbehavior, the coach, school and the OHSAA shall have jurisdiction to determine the penalties involved and whether or not the pupil may participate in athletics.

Requirements for Participation

Officially enrolled student in SLSD. SLSD will follow all the by-laws of the OHSAA with respect to transferring students.

Prospective student-athletes must meet with an athletic department administrator to review SLSD regulations and policies in this handbook (Sports Information Night) and complete all required information in the student-athletes on-line Final Forms account.

[\(FinalForms - Southwest Local Schools\)](#)

A current physical examination form: physicals are valid for one year. Pay-to-participate fees must be paid in full.

Academic Eligibility

Eligibility is based on performance in each quarterly grading period and applies to the subsequent academic quarter. High school student-athletes shall have their grades checked at the end of each quarter and must be passing 5.0 credits or the equivalent. Junior school students must be enrolled and receiving passing grades in a minimum of five classes.

Failure to meet quarterly standards results in ineligibility for the full subsequent academic quarter. A student's ineligibility starts on the fifth day of the next grading period.

Regaining eligibility begins on the fifth school day of the next grading period, pending verification of grades. A school day includes in-service and weather cancelations but not holidays and school breaks.

Fall sports quarterly eligibility will be determined by 4th quarter grades from the previous school year. Freshman academic eligibility is established in the final grading period of 8th grade. A 7th grade student is eligible for the first grading period. Thereafter, the student should be enrolled and passing five classes.

Athletics Quarterly Eligibility – Points to Consider

- ✓ It is vitally important that individual student-athletes make sure they are enrolled in the proper classes and the correct number of classes. Coaches and Guidance Counselors will not be assessing schedules for potential errors.
- ✓ Summer school grades are not a substitute for a prior grading period.
- ✓ Physical education classes are not a full-credit class.
- ✓ Seniors must be enrolled and passing five credits through the completion of their season.
- ✓ If student-athletes are only taking five courses there will be no margin for error. One failure will result in ineligibility for that quarter.
- ✓ If an extended absence will factor into quarterly eligibility, please contact the Athletic Director's Office for an assessment of the situation.
- ✓ Athletes participating in post-secondary option programs, a career center, home-educated or attending a private or charter school, will need to meet with a guidance counselor and/or the athletic director to determine a plan to report grades.
- ✓ Summer school and College Credit Plus course work in the summer, and other educational options such as work permitted after the conclusion of a grading period and after grades have been posted, won't be considered for athletic eligibility or compliance for scholarship bylaws.
- ✓ Students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) may receive additional consideration regarding academic eligibility.

Example: Softball/Baseball Player

Student passes 4 credits during 2nd quarter=Student is ineligible for the entire 3rd quarter

Eligibility is regained five days after the final 3rd quarter grades have been officially posted. For Spring sports this could be 1-2 weeks into the 4th quarter.

NCAA Eligibility

Students and their parents/guardians are responsible for registering with the NCAA Eligibility Center and requesting transcripts through Naviance.

Attendance

For participation or to attend a school-sponsored event after the school day, a student must attend at least five (5) class bells. The applicable events include rehearsals, practices, plays, concerts, athletic events and dances (i.e. Homecoming and Prom).

Students who are absent from school and determined to be excused by the attendance office may participate in practices and contests. This is applicable to Fridays for weekend events.

Students who are absent from school and determined to be unexcused by the attendance office may not participate in practice or contests. No designation of excused or unexcused on the attendance report will be dealt with as unexcused until, and if, it's determined otherwise. Exemptions will be made for students who were approved by the building administrators for a prearranged absence.

Any student with a detention or Social Probation consequence must fulfill the penalty before participating in an extra-curricular activity.

No student shall be excused from a class or supervised study for any extended periods of time to participate in interscholastic athletics. Building Administrators have the discretion to make exceptions to these rules and the final authority for infractions.

Tryouts

Once students are enrolled in school, students can try out for the team. However, participation in any contest is allowed only when all enrollment paperwork is complete, fees have been paid, and all grades and other pertinent records are in place.

New students that enroll in the district after tryouts shall be granted a tryout, prior to the first contest, after meeting all OHSAA and district transfer requirements.

Should a student be sick or injured prior to or during a tryout period, that student may have a delayed tryout at the discretion of the coach and the athletic administrator.

Open Gyms, Fields, Courts, etc.

All open gyms/fields/courts, etc. must follow the guidelines of the OHSAA. All open gyms/fields/courts, etc. must be scheduled with the district's facilities coordinator.

Multi-sport athletes must complete their current season before any participation is permitted in another school sport unless agreed upon by both coaches involved and initiated by the student-athlete.

Dress Code

All OHSAA and National Federation rules and policies must be followed regarding equipment and uniforms for practices and contests.

All student athletes must adhere to the school dress code. Students must wear an appropriate shirt during any school contest, practice, open gym/field/run (sports bras, spaghetti strapped tops, half or cut-off shirts, etc. only worn under a proper shirt). Students may not go shirtless in or out of the building, weight room, playing fields, etc. Tank tops are permitted.

Students must wear appropriate athletic shorts/pants while practicing. Shoes are mandatory, especially in the weight room. Sandals and flip-flops are permitted in-transit before and after practices/contests. For sanitary reasons, shirts must be worn in the weight room.

Participation on Independent Teams

Participation by a student-athlete in a non-interscholastic program (tryouts, practice, contest) while a member of the school squad in the same sport during the same season is prohibited. This may result in ineligibility for the remainder of that season. For cheerleading purposes, this is defined as competition cheer on a non-school team.

A. The number of players from the same school squad (roster) is limited, as follows: soccer-5; baseball/softball-4; volleyball-3; basketball-2; boys lacrosse-5; girls lacrosse-6. Football squad members are prohibited from non-interscholastic participation. This rule is not in effect from June 1-July 31.

B. An athlete may have contact with the school coaching staff in an interscholastic program for 10 days from June 1-July 31. In addition, interscholastic coaches in the team sports of baseball, basketball, cross-country, field hockey, football, ice hockey, soccer, softball, track & field, volleyball, and wrestling may provide individual instruction as defined as no more than four individuals present at one time in all combined facilities where the instruction is taking place.

C. Out-of-season instruction: Team Sports (OHSAA 10-Day Rule) June 1 through July 31 – Members of a school team’s coaching staff in the team sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball may coach students from their school teams for a maximum of 10 days; From August 1 through May 31 from school coaches – Individual skill/coaching instruction may be received by a member of a school team at any time prior to and after the school season and outside the defined no-contact periods from school coaches provided that no more than four members of a school team or individuals are present at one time in all facilities where the individual skill/coaching instruction is taking place.

D. From June 1 through July 31 from School Coaches – Individual skill/coaching instructions may be received by a member of a school team or individuals at any time from school coaches provided that no more than four members of a school team or individuals are present at one time in all facilities where the individual skill/coaching instruction is taking place; Penalty for violation of out-of-season can be found in OHSAA sport regulations: 7.8 and 8.5.

Age

A student-athlete is ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition when they reach the age of 20, regardless of where a 20th birthday falls in the relation to the sport season. Junior high school students (7-8) must be under the age of 15 prior to August 1st of the school year.

Residence

A. A student establishes residency when the parent or legal guardian of the student resides within the school district attendance boundaries and the student lives in the household.

B. Refer to OHSAA Bylaws 4-6-1 to 4-6-3 for the complete residency rule.

C. Violation of this rule will result in forfeiture of all contests in which the non-resident participated.

D. A change in custody must be reviewed and eligibility is subsequently approved by OHSAA to remain eligible.

E. Students who are residents of SLSD School District and attend a private school, are home schooled or attend online/charter schools are permitted to participate in extracurricular activities.

1. Their address will determine at what school they can participate.

2. They will need to enroll and complete all required paperwork. The Athletic Administrator of the building will be notified once permission has been granted.

3. The following documentation will be required before they can participate:

- a. Proof of residence – lease or mortgage
- b. Immunization records
- c. Custodial paperwork
- d. Academic records
- e. Birth certificate

F. Non-resident students who attend a private school, are home educated or attend online/charter schools will not be permitted to participate in extra-curricular activities.

Transfers

All transfer student's eligibility is governed by OHSAA Bylaws 4-7-1 to 4-7-7 and must be ruled eligible by OHSAA.

Varsity Letter Criteria Pertaining to All Sports

A. An athlete must complete the season in good standing with the school and coach.

B. An athlete who moves from one level of competition to another will letter at the level of highest competition provided meeting combined requirements.

C. A coach will have the prerogative to letter a senior who has not met the seasonal requirements for lettering.

D. Injury rule – Any athlete who is a starter or plays regularly and was thereafter injured may be awarded a letter if, in the coach's judgment, the student-athlete would have met the lettering requirements.

E. In a sport where OHSAA tournament play is sponsored, an athlete may letter if he/she becomes a starter and plays 75% of the quarters, innings, matches, or scores team points in individual competition in tournament play regardless of other lettering criteria.

Harrison H.S. and Southwestern Ohio Athletic Conference (SWOC) Awards

Freshman = Numeral certificate and Athletic Award certificate. A freshman who plays at the JV or varsity level also receives either a JV Athletic Award certificate or Varsity letter (cloth H).

JV = Athletic Award certificate. A student-athlete will receive an Athletic Award certificate for each succeeding year as a member of a JV team.

Varsity = Varsity letter (cloth H) year one; Varsity plaque year two; Varsity plaque year three and Varsity plaque year four. (All plaques ordered from a local supplier.)

SWOC Awards = Varsity only

GPA 3.5 or higher for the quarter = Academic All-SWOC certificate; SWOC Honorable Mention certificate, SWOC Second-Team certificate. SWOC First-Team is plaque or award given by the league including Player of the Year. SWOC does offer other awards and those are distributed at a SWOC-sponsored event or league meeting.

Coaches Awards = Any other awards come directly from the respective team's coaching staff and are listed in the 'End of the Season' report. This report is forwarded to an award supplier, The Harrison Press, and Jane Hinterlong for the Yearbook. This could also include awards from a Coaches or State Association, OHSAA or Media outlet.

SLSD Substance Abuse Policy – Grades 7-12

SLSD and the Board of Education recognize the use of illicit drugs and alcohol is wrong and harmful. At the beginning of each year, every student and parent/guardian are asked to read the student code of conduct and a statement regarding disciplinary sanctions related to the use of illegal substances. This information is in the Student Handbook, on the District's website and in every school building. Additionally, student-athletes and parent/guardians acknowledge in the Student-Athlete Handbook, the Athletic Department rules (below) regarding illegal substances. Compliance with these standards are mandatory.

Any student found in possession of or under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol at school, at a school-sponsored event, or on Board-operated transportation, will be immediately suspended for five days and recommended for expulsion. The student will be placed on social probation for 45 days.

First-time offenders who appeal an expulsion must present results of an assessment from a SLSD-approved drug and alcohol facility. This documentation and the student's parent/guardian's plan to prevent future use will be reviewed by district administration to determine the status of further disciplinary action.

Any occurrences of selling drugs or alcohol or repeat offences will result in an expulsion recommendation. An assessment option will not be allowed in these instances.

Student-athletes will be subject to denial of the privilege of participating in the interscholastic athletic program from the date of the infraction up to an amount of time which may extend to a full calendar year. For reinstatement to SLSD's interscholastic athletic program, the student-athlete will be required to complete all facets of a reinstatement program as defined by a professional assessment and a determination by SLSD administration.

A second offense involving the sale of alcohol or controlled substances may result in permanent denial of participation in SLSD's interscholastic athletic program.

Instances of selling and/or in possession of illegal drugs or alcohol will be reported to local law enforcement. SLSD recognizes the importance of guidance activities which provide support to students who are experiencing issues either directly or indirectly related to drug and/or alcohol use.

Therefore, programs such as peer counselor, individual guidance support groups and mentorship programs will be utilized within the school environment.

- This policy is in effect beginning with the date the student-athlete and parent/guardian acknowledges the Substance Abuse Policy in Final Forms. It is in effect for a calendar year, 365 days, 24 hours a day.
- Violations will lead to a denial of participation and/or removal from the SLSD interscholastic athletic program.
- A student who is selected for an SLSD interscholastic squad (grades 7-12) is considered a student-athlete at that time. The first substance abuse violation will be counted as their first offense toward their record.
- Cumulative accountability throughout a student-athlete's interscholastic career will run from grades nine through 12. (For example: a violation during 9th grade followed by a violation in 11th grade would constitute a second offense.) Offenses in grades 7-8 are expunged upon entering high school.
- If a student-athlete is implicated in a Substance Abuse Policy violation, the athletic director and/or building administration will fully investigate the situation to substantiate or refute the allegation.
- If a Substance Abuse Policy violation occurs after completion of the student-athlete's sports season but during the effective calendar year, the student-athlete must fulfill all facets of a program for reinstatement before their next season. Student-athletes under the denial of participation penalty for an out-of-season substance abuse violation will be permitted to try out for an interscholastic squad.
- An athlete will be denied participation in the season award program until the reinstatement procedure has been completed. Upon successful completion of the reinstatement process, the student-athlete will receive awards earned from the season during which the violation occurred.
- A student-athlete who feels that he or she has a substance abuse problem may personally report this circumstance to the athletic director, coach, or a member of the school faculty and/or administration. All self-referral information will remain confidential. Parents and Guardians may also make referrals. Procedurally, parent referrals will be treated as self-referrals.
- A self-referral or a parent referral cannot be made as an attempt to circumvent an active investigation into a Substance Abuse Policy violation. One self-referral is permitted during an athlete's interscholastic career at SLSD. A self-referral counts as the first substance abuse violation. A second subsequent violation of the Substance Abuse Policy may result in a denial of participation for up to one calendar year.

- Self-referrals cannot be made when there has been evidence of police intervention surrounding a violation of the Substance Abuse Policy.
- For the purpose of a potential tobacco or nicotine violation, E-Cigarettes/Vape Pens and similar paraphernalia are and will be considered a violation per the SLSD Athletic Department Substance Abuse Policy.
- Student-athletes under denial of participation for Substance Abuse Policy violations may practice and travel with the squad but not dress for any interscholastic contests.
- Positions of leadership (i.e. captain) are forfeited by violation of the Substance Abuse Policy.

Second and Subsequent Offenses: Possession and/or Use

Student-athlete is denied participation in SLSD's interscholastic athletic program for up to one calendar year from the date of the infraction.

The second offense penalty will be enforced regardless of the time interval between the first offense and the second offense. The student-athlete is accountable for adherence to the Substance Abuse Policy continuously from grades seven through 12. Junior school students entering the ninth grade will have previous substance abuse offenses expunged from their athletic record.

- Second offenses can be drug, alcohol, tobacco or nicotine substance abuse violations.
- In order to be reinstated to the interscholastic program after one year of denial of participation, the student-athlete must complete all aspects of the reinstatement criteria as outlined in the first offense section.
- It is the student-athlete's responsibility to communicate with the athletic director regarding all aspects related to the completion of the reinstatement criteria.
- If the second offense occurs after the end of the student-athlete's season but prior to the awards program, the student-athlete will be denied participation in the awards program and will not receive interscholastic awards.

SLSD Internet Acceptable Use Policy for Students

SLSD School District offers students access to the internet and use of District computers as well as the ability to bring their own devices and access the internet. The District is dedicated to access and appropriate use of technology to further educational goals. It is the responsibility of each student to make good choices and ultimately the role of parents to ensure students abide by the District's Internet/Acceptable Use Policy outlined in the SLSD Student Handbook.

Suspension from Athletic Participation

The Superintendent, or other school district administrative personnel, are authorized to prohibit a student from any or all athletics and extracurricular activities for a violation of the athletic code of conduct, the student code of conduct, athletic training rules, OHSA requirements or any other rules or regulations of the school district, school, coach or advisor that are applied to students, student-athletes or students participating in athletics or extracurricular activities.

Prior to any prohibition in athletics, the student-athlete will be given the opportunity to informally meet with the coach, Athletic Administrator or other school district personnel to challenge the reasons for the prohibition or to otherwise explain his/her actions. Any prohibition will be determined by the Superintendent or other school district administrative personnel. The provision of the informal meeting, or any other due process, is not applicable in the case of normal disciplinary procedures in which a student-athlete is removed from the athletic activity for less than one day of athletic activity.

Appeals Procedure

A student-athlete may appeal a prohibition from athletics. The appeal shall require the following:

- A. The written appeal must be presented to the administrator in charge within three school days following the date on the notice of prohibition from athletics.
- B. The administrator in charge shall mail or otherwise provide a decision in writing to the student-athlete regarding the appeal.
- C. The decision of the administrator in charge shall be final and not subject to any further appeal.
- D. During the time any appeal is pending, all penalties in this policy shall be enforced.

Physical Education (PE) Waiver

For eligible student athletes, the PE Waiver eliminates the PE requirement for high school graduation. It allows the student to pursue other options to earn a 0.5 credit rather than taking two PE courses (0.25 credit each). The student is still required to meet the minimum number of credits for graduation.

Who is eligible?

Students who are participating in interscholastic athletics at the high school are eligible to use the waiver after they have successfully completed two full seasons. This can be two seasons in two different sports, allowing the student to meet the requirements for the PE Waiver in one school year.

In addition to cheerleading and marching band, interscholastic athletic teams currently recognized by the Ohio High School Athletic Association in SLSD Schools include the following:

Baseball, Boys and Girls Basketball, Boys & Girls Bowling, Boys & Girls Cross Country, Boys & Girls Swimming and Diving, Football, Boys and Girls Golf, Softball, Boys and Girls Soccer, Boys & Girls Tennis, Boys & Girls Track, Girls Volleyball, Boys & Girls Wrestling, Boys & Girls Cheer

Under the Ohio state law, local boards of education may not add additional areas of participation beyond interscholastic athletics, marching band or cheerleading which may be used to excuse a student from the high school physical education requirement.

What does the student need to do?

The student needs to participate in the two full seasons and let their counselor know they plan to use the PE Waiver for the PE graduation requirements.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can my student use participation in a sport from before the current school year toward the waiver requirement? The waiver is not retroactive.
2. Can my student waive the 8th grade PE course because he/she plans to participate in sports or Marching Band in high school?

Students are required to have a PE experience in the junior school grades. The 8th grade course allows students to gain that experience and earn credit, but the waiver does not apply to the requirements for junior school curriculum.

3. Why can't a club sport count toward the waiver?

By Ohio law, the sports for the PE Waiver need to be recognized as interscholastic athletics.

4. If my student only participates in one full season of an eligible sport or Marching Band, can he/she receive partial credit and waive one of the PE courses?

There is no partial waiver of the PE requirements.

5. Does Winter Guard count towards the waiver?

Winter Guard does not count on its own toward the PE Waiver, nor does it count as a second season. If a student is in both Color Guard and Winter Guard, it is one season (Color Guard) that counts towards the waiver because Color Guard counts under marching band.

For more information, please see the Ohio Department of Education site about the state guidance regarding the PE Waiver.

Changing Sports/Same Season

Once an athlete attends the first five (5) days of practice of a sport, he/she may not quit and try out for another sport that is being conducted simultaneously, unless the two coaches mutually agree to the change. If an athlete is cut from the squad, he/she may try out for a second sport at the discretion of the coach of the second sport.

Dual Sports Seasons

A student may participate in two sports at the high school level (i.e., cross country and golf) during the same season if both coaches agree, and the administration approves, based on whether or not dual participation will result in conflict in the requirements of the two sports. The fee for the second sport is waived. Junior school level students are not permitted to participate in two sports during the same season.

Vacation Policy

Vacations during an athlete's season are discouraged. If a vacation is unavoidable:

- A. Contact head coach prior to the vacation
- B. An athlete must practice one day for each practice or contest day missed prior to resuming competition (contest day will count as a practice day)
- C. Be willing to assume the consequences related to your status on your team

Travel

Transportation will be provided in accordance to Board regulation: Co-curricular and Extra-curricular Activities – Transportation Policy.

- A. Athletes will remain with their squad and under the supervision of the coach when attending away contests.
- B. Athletes who miss the bus will not be allowed to participate in the contest. If there are extenuating circumstances involved that caused the athlete to miss the bus, the coach may allow the athlete to play only if the athlete's parent/guardian transports him/her to the contest. The final decision is up to the coach.
- C. All regular school bus rules will be in effect, including rules pertaining to food, noise, remaining in seats, care and respect for equipment.

Travel Releases

Student-athletes who participate in sports receiving round trip transportation:

Under certain circumstances where it creates an inconvenience to the families, athletes may be excused from riding either to or from an athletic event in school-authorized transportation as determined by board policy for various activities. This privilege is to be kept to a minimum since our philosophy continues to be that an athlete is part of a team in all phases of team activity. To ride on private transportation:

- A. A travel release form must be approved pre-season in Final Forms account.
- B. The athlete will be released to the parent/guardian or designated adult by the coach.
- C. Student-athletes will not be allowed to ride home with a student.
- D. In an emergency, the head coach may release a student-athlete from school transportation requirements, provided the student-athlete is released to a parent/guardian or designated adult.

Conflicts in School-Sponsored Extracurricular Activities

An individual who attempts to participate in multiple extracurricular activities will likely be in a situation with a conflict of obligations. Students should be cautious about participating in activities where conflicts might occur.

When conflicts do arise, the coach and sponsor of the activity will attempt to arrange a solution. If a conflict cannot be resolved, the principal will make the decision based on the following:

- A. The relative importance of each event
- B. The relative contribution the student can make
- C. How long each event has been scheduled
- D. Discussed with parents/guardians

Once the decision has been made, the student will not be penalized in any way by the coach or faculty sponsor. If a student cannot fulfill the obligations, this arrangement will need to be reviewed.

ACT and SAT Test Scores

All test scores must be reported to the eligibility center directly from the testing agency. Test scores will not be accepted if reported on a high school transcript.

When registering for the SAT or ACT, input the eligibility center code of **9999** to make sure the score is reported directly to the eligibility center.

The Guidance Department will coordinate all NCAA Clearinghouse materials. Parents are encouraged to review the NCAA Clearinghouse approved and non-approved course lists with their child. It is important for parents/guardians to take an active role regarding completion of approved courses throughout a student-athlete's high school career.

Athlete Equipment/Uniform Responsibilities

As an athlete participating in interscholastic athletics in the SLSD School District, you have the following responsibilities concerning school issued uniform and equipment items:

- A. It is important that your equipment provides you the protection for which it was designed. It is your responsibility to periodically examine your equipment for damage. Damaged equipment must be repaired before you compete or practice. You cannot be adequately protected with defective equipment. Equipment problems should be communicated immediately to your coaching staff.
- B. Your equipment and uniform are issued and for your use only. You are responsible for the security of these items, keep all items secured.
- C. All school issued items will be numbered for inventory purposes. Equipment or uniform items that are lost or stolen are your responsibility. Athletes will be placed on the student fine list and report cards withheld until restitution is complete.

- D. Care should be exercised in laundering uniforms. Read manufacturer's label for washing instructions. At the completion of your season, please launder all school issued practice and game uniforms prior to off-season storage.

Athletic Medical Procedures

It is your responsibility as an athlete competing in interscholastic athletics in the SLSD School District to understand and comply with the following medical and injury procedures:

- A. Before you compete or practice, you must have all forms completed and submitted. Specifically, these forms are a completed physical examination form, an emergency medical authorization form, student training pledge, and your student information form with risk acknowledgement.
- B. In the case of an athletic injury, it is your responsibility to notify your coach of the situation immediately so the best course of care can be administered as soon as possible. If there is any question as to whether you are injured, take the time to see the trainer for an evaluation. Cease practice and games until the severity is determined.
- C. If your injury requires a visit to a physician's office, the athletic trainer must receive a written release for you to return to competition.
- D. You have a personal responsibility to follow through on prescribed rehabilitation. You must make a commitment to complete the rehabilitation instructions.
- E. While injured, you are expected to attend all practices and contests unless excused by your coach. Even though you may be out of action, you are still a part of the team. You will still be able to pick up new strategies and techniques by observing practice sessions. It is very important that you do not let an injury adversely affect your attitude in the classroom.
- F. The Ohio High School Athletic Association carries a catastrophic injury insurance program. ([Catastrophic Insurance \(ohsaa.org\)](http://ohsaa.org))

Risk of Injury

All athletes and parents must realize the risk of serious injury which may be the result of athletic participation. SLSD School District will use the following safeguards to make every effort to eliminate injury:

- ✓ Use only state certified coaches
- ✓ Instruct all athletes about the dangers of participation in a particular sport

Insurance

SLSD School District does not provide accident or health insurance coverage for athletes participating in interscholastic athletics. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to maintain an active health policy while their child is participating in sports.

Transportation Guidelines

When using district provided transportation, the following rules apply:

1. As an athletic department, we are dependent upon our Transportation Department and want a positive working relationship. Please be cooperative and courteous.
2. The bus driver supervises the bus; follow their instructions. The driver is solely concerned with your safe transportation.
3. If district transportation is not provided, parents are responsible for arranging transportation for their student-athlete to and from practice and competitions.
4. Keep all conversations, devices and victory celebrations at a safe noise level.
5. Athletes should remain in their seats when the vehicle is in motion.
6. State law dictates that there is no food to be eaten on school buses.
7. Make sure the bus is in the same condition as when the trip began. Please dispose of any items at the conclusion of the trip. Littering is a fineable offense.

([Southwest Local School District - departments \(southwestschools.org\)](http://southwestschools.org))

Athletic Program Fee Guidelines

In order to minimize the cost of operating an athletic program from the District's General Fund, it is necessary to collect athletic program participation fees from every student participating in interscholastic athletics. Fees are approved annually by the Board of Education. See your building Athletic Office for fee collection protocol and specific payment information.

Student athletic fees are used to defray the cost of interscholastic athletics at SLSD. Such costs include, but are not limited to entry fees, officials, uniforms, equipment, training supplies, maintenance, transportation, coaching salaries, awards, etc.

- A. All athletes will be assessed an athletic program fee for every sport in which they participate.
- B. All athletes in grades 7 and 8 will be assessed a \$100 fee per athlete/per sport.
- C. All athletes in grades 9 through 12 will be assessed a \$150 fee per athlete/per sport.
- D. Student athletic program fees are non-refundable.
- E. Family cap for Athletics, Marching Band and Winter Guard: Students must reside at the same address and share a parent/guardian. School fees or club fees do not count toward the family cap: \$500
- F. For try-out sports, fees must be paid before first official contest. Refunds will be made through the District Treasurer's Office for any student not making the team.
- G. At the High School, fees are due before the first official contest.
- H. Students not paying fees or meeting payment deadlines will be denied participation in SLSD's interscholastic athletic program.
- I. Every student-athlete on a team must be accounted for in the program fee process.
- J. Students with special financial circumstances should be referred directly to the district athletic director.
- K. Checks that have been returned from the bank as uncollectable must be paid immediately in cash for the student to remain eligible for participation.

Locker Room Rules

- ✓ Behavior which is unacceptable during the school day applies to a locker room.
- ✓ The harassment or hazing of others is prohibited. Incidents are to be reported to the coaching staff immediately.
- ✓ Glass containers are prohibited in the locker room.
- ✓ All spiked or cleated shoes must be put on and taken off outside of the locker room in extreme or muddy weather conditions. No metal or hard plastic spikes or cleats are allowed in any other part of the school building.
- ✓ Equipment must be removed from all lockers by the first school day following the conclusion of each sports season.
- ✓ Make sure your locker is secured with a lock when necessary.
- ✓ Do not borrow another person's equipment.
- ✓ Make sure you check your protective equipment every day before practice or a game. If your equipment is damaged or you have any issues with your equipment, please notify your coach immediately.
- ✓ Follow the Athletic Core Values of Trust, Respect, Ownership, Leadership.
- ✓ All students must follow the *Student Code of Conduct and Board Policy* regarding participation in interscholastic athletics in SLSD.

Bullying and Hazing: Harassment, Intimidation, and Dating Violence

Bullying is an intentional written, verbal, electronic or physical act that a student has exhibited more than once toward a student or students. The behavior causes mental or physical harm to the other student and is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for others.

Hazing is defined as any act of coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation to any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person. Permission, consent or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing does not lessen the prohibition contained in this policy.

All students must follow the *Student Code of Conduct and Board Policy* regarding Bullying and Hazing.

Diet/Strength Supplements

Performance-enhancing aids are defined as any drug or nutritional supplement that is used by an athlete to increase strength, speed or general athletic performance.

The use, sale, or possession of performance aids that are classified as drugs by the FDA will be viewed by the SLSD Local School District as use, sale, or possession of an illegal drug. This is a violation of training expectations and the disciplinary process for the use, sale, or possession of an illegal drug will be followed.

The use of performance aids that are classified by the FDA as nutritional supplements is strongly discouraged by the SLSD School District. No member of the athletic department, regardless of personal opinions or beliefs, will promote the use of these performance supplements. Questions about nutritional supplements from athletes and parents/guardians should be directed to the athlete's family physician.

Examples: Creatine Monohydrate; Chromium Picolinate; Amino Acids; Carnitine; Caffeine, etc.

The use of diet aids to lose weight for increased athletic performance is strongly discouraged by the SLSD Local School District. Questions concerning diet aids should be directed to the athlete's family physician. *Examples: Dexatrim, etc.*

Heat Illness Information and Resources

[Heat Illness Information and Resources \(ohsaa.org\)](http://ohsaa.org)

Concussion Information and Resources

[Concussion Resources \(ohsaa.org\)](http://ohsaa.org)

Preventing the Spread of MRSA and Other Staph Related Skin Infections

- ✓ Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water. Scrub briskly for at least 15 seconds.
Frequent hand washing is the single most important means of preventing the spread of infections.
- ✓ Hand Sanitizer with at least 62% alcohol can be used for times when soap and water are not accessible.
- ✓ Shower immediately after all sport practices and competitions.
- ✓ Be sure to keep cuts and scrapes clean and bandaged.
- ✓ Avoid contact with other people's cuts, scrapes, and bandages.
- ✓ Do not share personal items. Avoid sharing personal items such as towels, sheets, razors, bar soap, clothing or athletic equipment.
- ✓ Wear practice clothes/uniforms only once, then wash in soap and water and dry in a hot dryer.
- ✓ Report all skin abrasions, wounds and potential skin infections to a coach, trainer or school nurse.

SLSD Board of Education Approved – 6/16/2022