

**SWARTZ CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT
PARENT-STUDENT HANDBOOK
2026-2027**



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For the purposes of this handbook, the term “Parent” includes a legal guardian or other person standing *in loco parentis* (such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the welfare of the child).

Section 1

Athletic Program Overview

Welcome

The Swartz Creek Community School District encourages all student athletes to experience the value of participating in quality programs and events. Good sportsmanship is expected from these student athletes as well as coaches and fans. Student athlete welfare and safety are top priorities as student athletes reflect the spirit of competition. The District Athletic Handbook has been developed for use by Swartz Creek student athletes and parents. This resource expresses school district expectations for our student athletes. If you would like more information regarding the Swartz Creek Community Schools Athletic Department, please contact Adrian Trzebiatowski, District Athletic Director (810-591-1809).

Mission Statement

The mission of Swartz Creek’s Athletic Department is to provide the highest quality athletic experience that serves to develop the individual student athlete through effective team training and commitment to academic effort and citizenship.

Philosophy of Athletics

Swartz Creek’s Interscholastic Athletic Program is an integral part of our District’s educational program student athletes must strive for both educational and athletic excellence through active participation in the classroom and maximum effort on the field of competition. Regardless of the competition level, all program goals will be deeply rooted in fostering sportsmanship, personal development and pride which will enhance the likelihood of success for our student athletes in their lives beyond graduation.

District Athletic Program Objectives

- Provide a positive image of school activities at Swartz Creek Community Schools
- Provide student athletes with opportunities for physical, mental, and emotional development
- Experience team play
- Develop loyalty, cooperation, and sportsmanship
- Create a desire to improve and excel
- Practice and develop self-discipline while learning to make decisions under pressure
- Develop an understanding of the value for interscholastic athletics within a balanced educational experience
- Develop leadership qualities and skills

Section 2

Team Partnership Agreement

We acknowledge that participation in athletics requires commitment, communication, accountability, and teamwork among student athletes, parents, and coaches. We agree to uphold the values and expectations outlined in this agreement in order to promote a positive and successful athletic experience for all.

Student Athlete Commitment

As a student athlete at Swartz Creek Community Schools, I agree to:

Academics & Responsibility

- Strive for academic excellence and attend classes regularly.
- Balance athletics with academic responsibilities.
- Be on time and prepared for practices, meetings, contests, and team activities.
- Follow all school rules, team rules, training rules, and MHSAA regulations.

Sportsmanship & Teamwork

- Demonstrate respect toward teammates, coaches, officials, opponents, and fans.
- Display good sportsmanship at all times.
- Put team goals ahead of personal goals.
- Accept coaching and constructive feedback positively.
- Respect opponents but never fear competition.

Effort & Character

- Work hard both during and outside of the season.
- Practice self-discipline and make positive decisions under pressure.
- Never quit and always give maximum effort.
- Learn from mistakes and continue to improve.
- Serve as a positive role model in school and in the community.
- Take pride in myself, my team, my school, and our facilities.

Parent Commitment

As a parent of a Swartz Creek student athlete, I agree to:

Support & Encouragement

- Encourage my child to attend practices, games, and team activities.
- Support my child in learning from both successes and failures.
- Encourage effort, teamwork, sportsmanship, and personal growth.
- Attend events when possible and cheer positively.

Respect & Sportsmanship

- Respect coaches, officials, players, spectators, and school personnel.
- Allow coaches to coach and officials to officiate.

- Refrain from using profanity, inappropriate behavior, or confrontational actions at events or through social media and communication platforms.
- Remember that athletics are intended to benefit the student athlete experience.

Communication

- Support healthy communication between my child and coaches.
- Wait 24 hours before addressing concerns after a contest or practice.
- Encourage my child to communicate directly with coaches first when appropriate.
- Contact coaches respectfully to schedule meetings when needed.
- Use the athletic director only after attempting to communicate with the coach.

Coach Commitment

As a coach representing Swartz Creek Community Schools, I agree to:

Leadership & Development

- Promote the educational values of interscholastic athletics.
- Provide a safe, positive, and respectful environment for all student athletes.
- Encourage academic success and personal growth.
- Teach teamwork, discipline, leadership, sportsmanship, and accountability.

Communication & Fairness

- Clearly communicate team expectations, rules, and procedures.
- Treat all student athletes fairly and respectfully.
- Provide instruction and feedback that helps athletes improve.
- Maintain open and professional communication with players and families.
- Model appropriate behavior and sportsmanship at all times.

Program Expectations

- Uphold district policies, league standards, and MHSAA regulations.
- Encourage student athletes to compete with integrity and pride.
- Help student athletes learn from adversity and celebrate success appropriately.

Participation in competitive interscholastic athletics is a privilege, not a right. These privileges can be removed for student athletes at any time for failure to meet the standards and requirements of particular teams, school or school districts, leagues or conferences, and regional, statewide or national organizations to which the student athlete's school belongs.

Parents and family members of our student athletes are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship and refrain from being physically or verbally abusive toward all coaches, officials, athletes and fans while attending an event at our District facilities and other host schools. It must also be fully understood that attending Swartz Creek Athletic events is a privilege that may be revoked by school officials either temporarily or permanently to address unacceptable behavior.

Section 3

League Arrangements

High School

Flint Metro League Conference

The Swartz Creek Community School District is a member of the Flint Metro League. This conference is known and respected for its outstanding tradition and high level of competitiveness. Flint Metro League schools endorse a belief that quality interscholastic athletic programs play an integral role in the educational process by enhancing the mental, emotional and physical well-being of each participating individual. Members of the Flint Metro League include:

- Brandon
- Clio
- Corunna
- Fenton
- Flushing
- Goodrich
- Holly
- Kearsley
- Lake Fenton
- Linden
- Owosso
- Swartz Creek

Middle School

Greater Flint Middle School League Teams & Seasons

Swartz Creek Middle School is a member of the Greater Flint Middle School League. This conference is known and respected for its outstanding tradition and high level of competition. Swartz Creek Middle School follows all Greater Flint Middle School League rules regarding middle school sports. The following schools are members of the Greater Flint Middle School League:

- Brandon
- Carman-Ainsworth
- Clio
- Corunna
- Davison
- Fenton
- Flushing
- Goodrich
- Grand Blanc - East
- Grand Blanc - West
- Holly
- Kearsley
- Lake Fenton
- Lapeer
- Linden

- Owosso
- Swartz Creek

Sports Offerings

If you would like more information regarding Swartz Creek Athletics, please contact the Swartz Creek Athletic office at (810) 591-1809 or go to our school website <https://www.swartzcreek.org/>.

High School Offerings

Fall Sports

- Cross Country – Boys & Girls (JV & V)
- Football (F, JV, & V)
- Golf – Girls (JV & V)
- Sideline Cheer (JV & V)
- Soccer – Boys (JV & V)
- Swimming – Girls (V)
- Tennis – Boys (JV & V)
- Volleyball (F, JV, & V)

Winter Sports

- Archery (V)
- Basketball – Boys & Girls (F, JV, & V)
- Bowling – Boys & Girls (JV & V)
- Competitive Cheer (JV & V)
- Competitive Ski (V)
- Hockey (V)
- Powerlifting (V)
- Swimming – Boys (V)
- Wrestling (JV & V)

Fall/Winter

- Poms (V)

Spring Sports

- Baseball (F, JV, & V)
- Golf – Boys (JV & V)
- Lacrosse – Boys & Girls (JV & V)
- Soccer – Girls (JV & V)
- Softball (F, JV, & V)
- Tennis – Girls (JV & V)
- Track – Boys & Girls (JV & V)

Abbreviations:

Levels: V = Varsity, JV = Junior Varsity, and F = Freshman

Middle School Offerings

Fall

- Basketball – Girls (Gr. 7 & 8)
- Cross Country (Coed Gr. 6, 7, & 8)
- Football (Gr. 7 & 8)
- Sideline Cheer (Gr. 7 & 8)

Fall & Winter

- Poms Club (Gr. 7 & 8)

Winter – Part One

- Archery Club (Coed Gr. 6, 7, & 8)
- Volleyball (Gr. 7 & 8)
- Wrestling (Coed Gr. 6, 7, & 8)

Winter – Part Two

- Basketball – Boys (Gr. 7 & 8)
- Competitive Cheer (Gr. 7 & 8)
- Swimming (Coed Gr. 7 & 8) *Co-op with Flushing Middle School (May be open to 6th depending on 7th & 8th grade numbers)*

Spring

- Baseball (Gr. 7 & 8)
- Bowling Club (Coed Gr. 6, 7, & 8)
- Softball (Gr. 7 & 8)
- Track & Field (Coed Gr. 6, 7, & 8)

Seasonal Months:

Seasons: F = Fall (Aug.-Oct.), Winter – Part One (Nov.-Dec.), Winter – Part Two (Jan.-Feb.), Spring (Mar. – May)

Section 4

Student Athlete Eligibility & Conduct Requirements

MHSAA Eligibility Rules

The Swartz Creek Community School District is a member of the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA), which is the governing body for all Michigan interscholastic sports. Swartz Creek High School and Swartz Creek Middle School are fully committed to abiding by all MHSAA rules governing interscholastic sports.

MHSAA – Summary of Eligibility Rules

The following regulations and policies have been established by the MHSAA which will be fully enforced by Swartz Creek Community Schools:

Enrollment

High School

To be eligible for interscholastic athletics, a student athlete must be enrolled in a high school no later than the fourth Friday after Labor Day (first semester or first and second trimesters) or fourth Friday of February (second semester or second and third trimesters). A student athlete must be enrolled in at least (66%) of full credit load potential.

Swartz Creek Community Schools Virtual learning students are allowed to play HS & MS sports. Please see the athletic office for details.

Middle School

To be eligible for interscholastic athletics, a student must be enrolled in a middle school no later than the fourth Friday after Labor Day (first semester) or fourth Friday of February (second semester). A student must be enrolled in the school for which he/she competes. No student who is enrolled in the Gr. 5 or below may compete on the same team with or against 6th, 7th and/or 8th grade students.

Age

High School

A student who competes in any interscholastic athletic contests must be under 19 years of age with the following exception: a student whose nineteenth birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year.

Middle School

A Gr. 6 student who competes in any interscholastic athletic contest limited to 6th grade students must be under 13 years of age, except that of a student whose 13th birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year. A Gr. 7 student who competes in any interscholastic athletic contests must be under 14 years of age, the exception to that is a student whose 14th birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year. An Gr. 8 student who competes in any interscholastic athletic contests must be under 15 years of age, the exception to that is a student whose 15th birthday occurs on or after September 1 of a current school year.

Special Note for Gr. 7 & 8 Participation Only:

Gr. 7 students may participate on 8th grade teams, but Gr. 8 students may not compete on 7th grade teams.

Special Note for Gr. 6 Participation Only:

Gr. 6 students may now participate with 7th and 8th grade students in individual sports (e.g., bowling, cross country, track & field, swimming & diving, wrestling)

- Participation as an athlete may also be permitted only in situations where team roster numbers require additional members, and only with approval from the athletic director and the GFMSL.
- Gr. 6 student athletes must meet all requirements expected of other student athletes including, eligibility standards, and athletic physical, and signed athletic code of conduct form.

Section 5

Physical Examination

High and Middle School requirements are the same for this category.

No student athlete shall be eligible to represent a high school for which there is not a physician's statement on file in the offices of the superintendent, the principal, or the athletic director for the current school year. This statement must certify that the student athlete has passed a physical examination and is physically able to compete in athletic tryouts, practices and contests. (A physician's statement for the current school year is interpreted as a physical examination given after April 15 of the previous school year.) Additionally, there has been consent for disclosure to the MHSAA of information otherwise protected by FERPA and HIPAA for the purpose of determining eligibility.

Student Athlete Status Requirements

Maximum Enrollment & Competition

High School

Enrollment - A student athlete shall not compete in athletics who has been enrolled in Gr. 9-12, inclusive, for more than eight semesters or 12 trimesters. The seventh and eighth semester OR the 10th, 11th and 12th trimester must be consecutive.

Competition - A student athlete, once enrolled in Gr. 9, shall be allowed to compete in only four first and four second semesters OR four first, four second and four third trimesters. A student athlete shall be limited to participation in only one sport season when that sport is sponsored twice during the school year.

PER MHSAA RULES:

Undergraduate Standing - A student athlete who is a graduate of a regular four-year high school shall not be eligible for interscholastic athletics. Any foreign exchange student who has graduated from their school in their home country is ineligible.

Transfers - Generally, a student must have had an accompanying change of residence from his/her parent or other persons with whom he or she has been living during the period of his/her last high school enrollment, into the district or service area of the school he/she now attends to be eligible for his/her first semester. All transfer students must get clearance from the athletic director.) Swartz Creek High School will enforce upon a transfer student any period of ineligibility to which that student would have been subject as a result of a student or athletic code violation(s) at that student's most recent previously attended school.

Middle School

Semesters of Enrollment & Competition

Students enrolled in 6th, 7th and 8th grades are not limited in the number of semesters of competition.

Academic Record

Previous Academic Credit Record – No student athlete shall be allowed to compete in any athletic contest who does not have to their credit, in official school records, a full credit load of six assigned courses where five classes have been completed with a passing grade.

Current Academic Credit Record – Academic eligibility checks of not more than 10 weeks (semesters) or seven weeks (trimesters) are required. If a student athlete is not passing five out of six classes with a 2.0 when checked, that student is ineligible for competition until the next check but not less than the next Monday

through Sunday.

Academic Standard

High School & Middle School

Any student athlete performing below a passing grade in more than one of their academic classes OR not earning a 2.0 grade point average overall will not be able to participate in extracurricular clubs and athletics until the next scheduled school-wide check (completed at least three times per quarter). Participation will resume provided the academic performance issues have been repaired.

Virtual Learning Center

Course Load: Student athletes must be actively passing and enrolled in at least 66% of a full credit load (e.g., passing four out of six classes).

Pacing and Eligibility: Online progress must align with the course syllabus.

Academic History: Student athletes must have passed at least 66% of their full-time course load in the previous semester or trimester.

You can review the full [Online Learning Eligibility PDF](#) published by the MHSAA

Ineligible

- A student athlete who does not meet the academic requirements for classes passed at the end of any marking period will be ineligible for the entirety of the next marking period.
- Any student athlete who is failing the class they are currently enrolled in will be ineligible for competition until they are passing a class they are enrolled in.

Citizenship Standard

Middle School (Only)

- **Any student athlete earning any Level One scores could be prohibited from attending school events.**
- Student athletes may earn eligibility after one week (instead of sitting out for the next CREEK score check which is three weeks) with correct completion and submission of their ineligibility form.
- No submission or incomplete/low quality answers will result in another week of ineligibility (if it's not acceptable by the first Thursday, it becomes two weeks of ineligibility, if not acceptable by the second Thursday it becomes three weeks).

Section 6

Team Membership

High School

Limited Membership - A student athlete who, after practicing with (including tryouts) or participating in an

athletic contest or scrimmage as a member of a high school athletic team, participates in any athletic competition not sponsored by his/her school in the same sport season shall become ineligible for a minimum of the next three contests and maximum of the remainder of the season in that school year.

Undue Influence - Any person or persons, directly or indirectly, associated with the school or its athletic program cannot secure or encourage the attendance of a student athlete or the student's parents as residents of the school district.

Middle School

Limited Membership - A student athlete who, after practicing with (including tryouts) or participating in an athletic contest or scrimmage as a member of a middle school athletic team, participates in any athletic competition not sponsored by his/her school in the same sport season shall become ineligible for a minimum of the next two days of competition and maximum of the remainder of the season in that school year.

Team Membership - Once a student tries out for a particular sport, that student athlete may not try out for another sport without permission from the primary team. Changing from one sports team to another must occur prior to the first game of a season. When a student athlete is dropped from a team for disciplinary reasons and/or quits a team, that student athlete is ineligible to participate in another sport during the same season.

Section 7

Amateur Status/Awards

High and Middle School requirements are the same for this category.

Eligibility for interscholastic athletics at MHSAA member schools is limited to amateurs, meaning those student athletes who have not received gifts of material or money and have not received other valuable considerations (see MHSAA handbook for details). A student athlete may accept, for participation in athletics, a symbolic or merchandise award, which does not have a "fair market value" or cost in excess of \$40.00. Awards for athletic participation in the form of cash, merchandise certificates, or any other type of negotiable documents are never allowed. A violation of this rule may lead to ineligibility. Parents and student athletes that have questions about amateur status, or non-school statewide/national events, should contact the athletic director. Banned Substance

High and Middle School requirements are the same for this category.

Use of a performance-enhancing substance by a student athlete is a violation that will affect a student athlete's athletic eligibility and interscholastic athletic participation, as determined by the Board of Education.

*Due to the continued additions/updates, please refer to <https://www.ncaa.org/sports/2015/6/10/ncaa-banned-substances.aspx?path=ssj> for the most current list of banned substances.

Board Policy #5507 - Extracurricular Activities

The Swartz Creek Community Schools Board of Education has established the following policy which all students will be expected to adhere to as student athletes participating in the Swartz Creek Community Schools Athletic Department:

Board Policy #5507 - Extracurricular Activities

Student athletes who participate in interscholastic athletics may not use performance-enhancing substances. Performance-enhancing substances include any substance banned by the NCAA. Student athletes who use performance-enhancing substances may be disciplined or excluded from the activity.

To assist with enforcement, building principals shall require that the warning notice concerning anabolic steroids and dietary supplements that contain a performance-enhancing supplement is installed and properly maintained in each of the District's locker rooms or athletic dressing areas.

M.C.L.A. 333.26301 et seq., 380.1318

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Section 8

Athletic Eligibility

The Swartz Creek Community Schools recognizes the educational value of student participation in interscholastic athletics (school sponsored activities for which grades and credit are not received). However, participation should not be at the expense of or detrimental to the student's academic studies and normal progress toward graduation.

- All student athletes in Gr. 6-12 who are participants in school sponsored interscholastic athletic activities which require, on average, three or more hours of participation in a week and/or require absence from a class on occasion for participation will be subject to academic eligibility regulations.
- A student athlete's eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletic activities will be determined by their grades as follows:
 - Students shall be passing five out of six classes with a 2.0 GPA from the previous semester and passing five out of six classes with a 2.0 GPA in currently assigned classes. GPA is based on a 12 factor system:
 - A = 4.0
 - A- = 3.8
 - B+ = 3.5
 - B = 3.0
 - B- = 2.8
 - C+ = 2.5
 - C = 2.0
 - C- = 1.8
 - D+ = 1.5
 - D = 1.0
 - D- = 0.8
 - E = 0.0
- If a student athlete is deemed "ineligible" (or failing to meet the above requirements), they will be placed on probation and may not participate in any scrimmages, competitions, or games until eligibility standards are met at the next eligibility check. Coaches will be expected to permit ineligible student athletes to participate in practice sessions provided the student athlete is making progress toward becoming eligible.
- For those sports that utilize a tryout system, coaches may consider a student athlete's eligibility status and the subsequent time they may be unable to participate when making decisions about which student athletes to select for the final team roster.
- All student athlete grades will be reviewed at the following frequency at the respective levels:
 - **High School** – Each Two-Week Period
 - **Middle School** – Each Three-Week Period
 - Any student athlete that does not meet eligibility requirements will be placed on probation, and follow the probationary process. Eligibility checks for probationary student athletes will be conducted weekly. Any student athlete failing to meet established standards will remain ineligible.

- Ineligibility will continue until standards are met at the next eligibility check.
- Special Education students may be exempt from the Swartz Creek District's eligibility requirements for interscholastic athletic activities if so indicated in their IEP (Individualized Educational Plan). Such students will, however, still have to meet the MHSAA eligibility requirements to participate in interscholastic sports.
- Transfer students must meet all established eligibility requirements established by the Swartz Creek Board of Education and MHSAA. All official transcripts must be on file and student must be enrolled before they can practice or participate in an interscholastic athletic activity.

Section 9

Athletic Attendance Policy

It is the expectation that student athletes attend all practices and games. If an absence occurs, coaches must be contacted prior to the absence whenever possible. The disciplinary action recommended in each case should be considered the minimum:

Infraction Level /Action/Consequence

- **First Offense** - Coach and Student Athlete conference
- **Second Offense** - Coach, Parent, and Student Athlete conference, One game suspension
- **Third Offense** - Dismissal from team

School Attendance

- A student athlete must be in attendance, in his/her assigned location, at school the ENTIRE DAY to be eligible to participate in practice and/or game.
- A student athlete who is more than 10 minutes late to class will be considered absent for that instructional period.
- Student athletes must provide a doctor's note to be cleared to participate in practice or game on that day. Students are allowed one absence event per season (up to three hours).

Excusing Student Athletes From Class

- Student athletes will not be excused from class for game or competition without the athletic director or principal's approval.
- Student athletes will be excused no earlier than 15 minutes before the time the bus is to leave for an away contest.

Practice During Vacation

- Teams may hold practice during school vacation days. Exception: Middle School student athletes are not to participate during vacation periods without permission from the District Athletic Director.
- Student athletes must provide written parental permission to coaches stating their reason for not attending these practices.
- Student athletes who miss those scheduled practices due to reasons excused by their parents will not jeopardize their membership on the team nor should punitive action be taken against them.

Section 10

School or Team Suspensions

In the event that a student athlete is serving a suspension assigned by a school administrator or coach, the following attendance standards are in place:

- During any/all school suspensions, student athletes are suspended from participation in all interscholastic athletic activities, including attendance at all athletic practices and contests (both home and away).
- If a coach suspends a student athlete from his/her team, the coach must notify the athletic director as soon as possible stating the reasons for the action.

Athletic Code of Conduct for Student Athletes

Participation in Swartz Creek's sports programs is a privilege. Student athletes must adhere to MHSAA, Flint Metro League (and Greater Flint Middle School League for middle school student athletes) and Swartz Creek Community School District expectations. Swartz Creek Community School District student athletes must conduct themselves in an exemplary manner at all times. Once a student athlete participates in a sport for Swartz Creek, they will be held to the standards of the Athletic Code for the duration of their school career. Additionally, student athletes will be held accountable to the Athletic Code while in or out of season after their first participation. This standard applies to school and community activities that may occur on or off school property. Violations may result in suspension or dismissal from a team in addition to consequences outlined in the Parent-Student Handbook. The purpose of Swartz Creek's **Code of Conduct** is to establish an awareness of sports-related consequences for violation of established school rules. The disciplinary actions recommended in each case should be considered as the minimum. Each coach may establish and enforce additional rules and penalties. These rules must be in writing, approved by the athletic director and/or building principal, and shared with all participating student athletes and parents. If circumstances warrant, a more severe disciplinary action may result. Certain violations represent serious incidents that may occur in school, at school events, away from school, or during the off season.

These will be referred to as major violations which may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling:
 - Any illegal drug, controlled substance, or cannabis (including marijuana and hashish). Michigan law prohibits the possession or medical use of marijuana on school grounds or buses.
 - Any anabolic steroid or performance-enhancing substance not administered under a physician's care and supervision.
 - Any prescription drug when not prescribed for the student athlete by a licensed health care provider or when not used in the manner prescribed.
 - Any inhalant, regardless of whether it contains an illegal drug or controlled substance that a student athlete believes is, or represents to be capable of, causing intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system.
 - "Look-alike" or counterfeit drugs, including a substance not containing an illegal drug or controlled substance that a student athlete believes to be, or represents to be, an illegal drug or controlled substance.
 - Drug paraphernalia, including devices that are or can be used to ingest, inhale, or inject illegal drugs, cannabis or controlled substances into the body and grow, process, store, or conceal illegal drugs, cannabis or controlled substances.
 - Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling tobacco or nicotine materials, including electronic cigarettes and vapes, and tobacco "look-alike" products.

Student athletes who are under the influence of any prohibited substance are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they have the prohibited substance, as applicable, in their possession.

- Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling alcoholic beverages including those labeled as non-alcoholic. Student athletes who are under the influence of an alcoholic beverage are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they had alcohol in their possession.
- Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling of weapons
- Theft, arson and vandalism
- Gross misbehavior and/or persistent disobedience.
- Striking or threatening school personnel
- Gang related activities
- Hazing
- Threatening, harassing, bullying, and/or cyber bullying students
- Assault
- Fighting

Major Violation Level/Consequence

1st Violation* - Loss of participation for 20% of contests

2nd Violation* - Loss of participation for 50% of contests

3rd violation* - Loss of participation up to 180 school days

4th violation* - Forfeiture of athletic participation for all remaining athletic program participation for school building enrollment years

**These will accrue over the school building enrollment years.*

In all instances of major violations, an Office Disciplinary Referral or Athletic Department report will be created as a formal record of the violation.

- Other violations represent less serious incidents that may also occur in school, at school events, away from school, or during the off season. These will be referred to as minor violations which may include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Skipping school
- Inappropriate physical contact
- Insubordination
- Cheating
- Repeated referrals or dismissals from class
- Disruption of the educational process
- Inappropriate behavior unbecoming of a student athlete
- Inappropriate use of social media, cell phones or other electronic communication devices

Minor Violation Level/Consequence

- 1st violation* - Loss of participation for 10% of contests
- 2nd violation* - Loss of participation for 20% of contests
- 3rd violation* - Loss of participation for 50% of contests
- 4th violation* - Moves to Major Violations Scale - 2nd Violation [which is loss of participation for 50% of contests]

**These will accrue over the school building enrollment years*

Note: Student athletes receiving any school suspension for violation of school rules are also suspended from participation in all interscholastic athletic activities; which include athletic practices and contests while serving the suspension.

Due to the severity of the infraction, a student athlete may be put on a behavioral contract which may exclude the student athlete from participating in athletic practices, contests, or removal from the team. School and athletic consequences will run in conjunction with one another. Student athletes that either quit a team or are removed from a team may not begin another sport until the season is over from the team they quit or were removed.

A student athlete that has never played a particular sport and has a suspension to compete in their next sport played must finish that season in good standing for the completion of the consequence to stand (i.e. If a student athlete goes out for a sport that he/she has never played, completes the consequence, then quits that team, the completion of the consequence will not count).

All consequences that are not completed by the end of a school year will be carried over to the following school year.

Appeals & Due Process

Swartz Creek student athletes may appeal athletic consequences related to violation of school rules to the building principal, in writing, within two school days of the suspension. The building principal will make a final decision within two days of receiving the appeal.

Athletes dismissed from their team for poor attendance may request a review of their dismissal through submission of a written appeal to the athletic director. This appeal must be submitted within two school days of the dismissal. The athletic director will make a final decision within two days of receiving the appeal.

Section 11

Athletic Team Management

Philosophy of Team Selection

In accordance with our philosophy of athletics and our commitment to providing meaningful participation opportunities for as many students as possible, coaches are encouraged to keep team rosters as inclusive as possible without compromising the integrity of the sport. Factors such as time, space, facilities, equipment, and safety will naturally limit effective squad size for each program. When making roster decisions, coaches shall strive to maximize student athlete opportunities while maintaining the quality and competitiveness of the program.

When the number of interested athletes exceeds available team positions, coaches may not be able to accept all interested student athletes (cuts will be necessary). In these situations, coaches must implement a clearly defined, written, and unbiased tryout process. The evaluation criteria, timeline, and expectations shall be communicated in advance to student athletes, parents, and the athletic office. Coaches are expected to apply consistent standards, document evaluations, and provide each student athlete with a fair and meaningful opportunity to demonstrate their abilities.

All student athletes must be provided a minimum tryout period of at least two days. Participation in out-of-season conditioning programs or summer camps shall have minimal weight in the selection process, as the district encourages and supports multi-sport participation.

Team Tryout Requirements

No one can try out for a team unless they meet the MHSAA eligibility requirements at the time of tryouts. Each student athlete attending tryouts must complete an online TRYOUT card through Final Forms prior to the beginning of the tryout. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Final Forms Link: <https://swartzcreek-mi.finalforms.com/> Student athletes wishing to participate on interscholastic athletic teams must:

- *Meet the residency requirements set forth by the MHSAA.*
- *Meet both the academic requirements set forth by the MHSAA and Swartz Creek Community Schools.*
- *Show proof of a physical exam signed by a physician dated after April 15th of the previous school year.*
- *Complete the online athletic code of conduct – Statement of Understanding form through Final Forms.*
- *Complete an online emergency release form through Final Forms.*

If a student athlete has fulfilled the requirements above, they will be allowed to participate in tryouts.

Overlapping Seasons

Student athletes who participate in a fall or winter sport with an extended season (districts, regionals, etc.) will be able to participate in winter or spring seasons as soon as the previous season ends. This conflict must be communicated to the coach of the new sport prior to the beginning of the season. Coaches are encouraged to finalize their rosters and submit them to the Athletic Office within one week of the official start date. Student athletes who wish to participate or try out in these sports after the first official practice date must make arrangements with the coach and athletic director.

Team Selection Policy

Choosing members of athletic squads is the sole responsibility of the coaches of those squads. A varsity coach is allowed to comment on the selection of student athletes at every level.

Lower-level coaches shall take into consideration the policies as established by the varsity coach for that sport.

Prior to trying out, the coach shall provide the following information to all team candidates in written form:

- Extent of tryout period
- Criteria used to select team

- Number of athletes to be selected
- Practice commitment should they make the team
- Game commitments

The coach has the responsibility to explain to the student athlete, if asked, why they were not selected as well as ways to improve. Student athletes not selected for a team will be personally informed by the coach. Cut lists will not be posted.

Playing Out of Level

Student athletes will typically be grouped on teams with other student athletes of their current grade-level assignment. The following examples will generally be used:

Middle School:

- Gr. 7 students on Gr. 7 Teams
- Gr. 8 students on Gr. 8 Teams

High School:

- Gr. 9 students on Freshmen Teams
- Gr. 10 students on Junior Varsity Teams
- Gr. 11 & 12 students on Varsity Teams

Please note that in special circumstances, the athletic department may move student athletes to teams outside their normal grouping (that is also in accordance with applicable MHSAA regulations). When non-traditional team assignments are made, the following criteria are considered by the athletic director and impacted coach(es) prior to contacting the student:

- The impact of academic work on the student athlete
- The emotional impact on the student athlete
- The social impact on the student athlete
- The physical impact on the student athlete
- The interests of the school, the teams involved, and the student athlete
- The team advancement decision must be assessed regularly by the coach, the athletic department, the student athlete and the parent, and the placement decision may be reversed, if necessary.
- If a student athlete is advanced for a second time during the same season, permanent placement at the higher level will continue until the end of the season.
- Playing out of level is not a typical placement for student athletes. It should be understood that this not only applies to student athletes playing up a level, but also juniors/seniors playing on the junior varsity level.

Section 12

Injuries

If a student athlete is injured and needs medical attention, Swartz Creek coaches will contact the Licensed Athletic Trainer and that student athlete's parents for further instructions. The coach or trainer will call for an ambulance when necessary. When a student athlete has suffered a serious injury, a student athlete will not be permitted to resume participation without licensed medical clearance to be turned into the Athletic office and trainer.

A **"RETURN TO ACTIVITY & POST CONCUSSION CONSENT FORM"** is to be used in the event that an athlete is removed from and not returned to activity after exhibiting concussion symptoms.

- MHSAA rules require the student athlete to have (a). Unconditional written authorization from a physician (MD/DO/Physician's Assistant/Nurse Practitioner), and (b). Consent from the student athlete and parent. Both sections 1 & 2 of this form must be completed prior to return to a "return-to-play" protocol. This consent form is located in the forms section of our athletic website.
- A copy of the consent form must be delivered to both the athletic director's office and athletic trainer.
- The athletic trainer will issue a "return-to-play" protocol which will ultimately decide when the student athlete will be allowed to fully participate in their sport or activities.
- Coaches report all injuries to the athletic director and trainer.
- The Swartz Creek Community School District does not assume financial responsibility for medical, hospital or ambulance expenses incurred because of athletic injuries.
- Athletics is a voluntary program in which the student athlete may participate if he/she so desires, but the student athlete does so at his/her own risk of injury. Risks of injury or death can occur when student athletes participate in interscholastic athletic activities.

Section 13

Transportation

Riding buses to and from away sports events is an important part of each student athlete's interscholastic experience. Swartz Creek student athletes are encouraged to ride team buses to and from all events. Riding a bus remains a privilege; student athletes are expected to demonstrate responsibility and act in ways that reflect positively on their school district and home. The following rules highlight important expectations for our student athletes:

- Teams should board the bus together and be accompanied by the coach whenever possible.
- When parents wish to excuse their child from riding a bus to or from an event, they must fill out a **Travel Release Form** and have it signed by the athletic director prior to buses departing for games. Travel Release Forms are available in the Athletic Office or can be found on the athletic website.
- Student athletes are responsible for maintaining clean buses. All trash must be removed at the end of each bus trip.
- District bus conduct rules are in effect during all sports-related bus trips.
- Parents will be advised if the school transportation to the contest is a one-way trip.
- Boys and girls may not sit with each other in the event that both genders are riding the same bus to a game.

Fundraising

Monies earned through fundraisers will be deposited in the sport specific internal account. If a team member chooses to leave the team, or is dismissed from the team, funds raised via fundraising activities will not be refunded to the team member. Those funds will remain in the sport specific account.

Section 14

Care of Equipment & Facilities

Equipment & Supplies

The Swartz Creek Community School District supplies equipment to student athletes. This equipment is on loan for specific seasons. At the end of every season, a student athlete is required to return all equipment to their coach. If the equipment is not returned, the athletic director will assess a fee for all equipment not returned to the athletic office. Student athletes are responsible for the care of this equipment. If damage or loss occurs, the student athlete may be held liable for replacement cost of the equipment.

Athletic Facility Rules

Student athletes utilize facilities that support their involvement in competitive sports. These facilities must work for the good of all team members. Student athletes are expected to meet several expectations. The following rules allow school facilities to remain in good condition:

- The training room is not a meeting place. Only student athletes who are there for a specific reason are permitted to enter.
- Student athletes are responsible for making sure locker rooms and facilities remain clean.
- Student athletes will not be issued school towels.
- Student athletes are not allowed to keep training room supplies without permission of the trainer.
- Student athletes are not allowed in the coach's office and/or classroom unless permitted by their coach.
- Student athletes may not operate bleachers.
- No student athlete is allowed in the gym or weight room unless a coach is present.
- Student athletes should not bring large sums of money to school.
- Valuable items should be kept in padlocked lockers during practices and games.
- SCCS is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
- Student athletes are responsible for their own locks.

Weight Room Rules

The weight room is provided for Swartz Creek students, staff and community. Student athletes are not permitted in the weight room without a coach. Students who use this facility must abide by the following rules:

- Coaches and student athletes are responsible for making sure the weight bars are cleared, weights are stacked, the weight room is clean, the stereo and lights are turned off and doors locked when leaving.
- No tobacco, gum, glass, drinks or food is allowed in the weight room.
- Appropriate apparel (shirt/shorts/shoes) must be worn at all times.
- Spotters must be used for all lifts over the head and body.

- Use weight belts for safety—especially those lifts involving the lower back.
- Anyone behaving in an inappropriate manner may be removed from the weight room and have their privileges suspended.

Section 15

General Department Information

Athletic Department Website

The following printable athletic forms can be found on our Website:

- Click on “Athletics”
- Scroll down to the bottom left side of the page
- Choose from the following:
 - Travel Release Form
 - Athletic Department Directory
 - Athletic Boosters Website Link
 - MHSAA Link for physicals, PBA & Concussion Information
 - Athletics Social Media Accounts
 - Additional forms (see Athletic Website)

Team Schedules

To view/print an athletic/team schedule on our website:

All sports schedules can be found on the athletic website: <https://swartzcreekathletics.org>

Athletic Event Passes

Swartz Creek has a 10-event pass available for \$30.00 in the Athletic Office. Also, Swartz Creek residents age 60 and over may obtain a “Gold Card” from the SCHS Athletic Office free of charge. Valid picture ID is required. Either pass admits an individual into any Swartz Creek home event without any additional charge for on-campus events. Some exceptions where such event passes are not redeemable include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Off-campus events such as hockey or bowling
- An anticipated sold-out event
- Flint Metro League Championships
- Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) events

Individual & Athletic Awards

High School Student Athletes Only:

Coaches establish standards for earning athletic team awards. Student athletes must participate throughout an entire season to be eligible for awards. Award standards may include, but are not limited to:

- Swartz Creek Community School District Colors are red and white. School monograms awarded for athletic participation should be placed on the upper front left panel of the jacket. Numerals shall be placed on the left sleeve.
- The varsity athletic team award shall be a large “S”, red in color.
- A student athlete shall not receive more than one varsity letter award during his/her school career. The student athlete must participate in at least 50% of the contests to be eligible for a varsity letter. Certificates shall be presented to each student athlete should he/she earn more than one varsity award.
- The school reserves the right to recall any athletic award granted.
- The school reserves the right to request that students remove improperly worn awards.
- The freshman athletic team award shall be a certificate of participation.
- The junior varsity athletic team award shall be a junior varsity letter certificate. Middle School Exception: Coaches are not expected to issue individual awards, but may do so if they choose. No award may be more than **\$40.00** in cost and must follow all other MHSAA guidelines. All student athletes who finish a season in good standing will receive a certificate through the Athletic Department. Each coach is expected to hold an “End of the Season” team meeting (student athletes and/or their parents will be expected to cover any possible costs of the meeting).

Section 16

Consideration For College Athletics

NCAA College Eligibility Rules

Student athletes wishing to play their freshman year at a NCAA Division I or Division II college must satisfy requirements of NCAA Bylaw 14.3, and must be certified by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Center. Students should check with their counselor to obtain an NCAA Eligibility Center form. Student athletes and their parents share responsibility to meet NCAA requirements. The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) regulates many college athletic programs. The NCAA has three membership divisions:

- **Division I:** Schools such as Michigan State, University of Michigan, Central Michigan, Western Michigan, Eastern Michigan, Oakland University
- **Division II:** Schools such as SVSU, Grand Valley State, Northern Michigan, Michigan Tech
- **Division III:** Schools such as Alma College, Hope, Calvin

Each school’s membership depends on the size and scope of their athletic program and whether they provide athletic scholarships. Swartz Creek students are encouraged to contact their counselor with questions regarding NCAA eligibility.

NAIA & NJCAA Opportunities

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) is a smaller association than the NCAA. It includes two divisions (Division I and II) with NAIA Division I being comparable to Division II in the NCAA. Both divisions offer academic and athletic scholarships:

Division I and II include schools such as Aquinas College, Concordia University, Cornerstone University, Davenport University, Madonna University, and University of Michigan-Dearborn.

The National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) offers an ideal alternative for student athletes seeking to develop both academic and athletic skills in an affordable and competitive environment. Junior and/or community colleges offer academic and athletic scholarships which include the following local examples: Mott Community College, Delta College, Lansing CC, Oakland CC, Macomb CC.

When looking for an athletic scholarship, remember that there are options in NCAA, NAIA and NJCAA. Student athletes are encouraged to become fully informed of the possible benefits provided by these associations to find the college that best meets their future goals. Further information can be found in *Guide for the College-Bound Student Athlete* which is available through the following websites:

- www.ncaa.org - National Collegiate Athletic Association
- www.naia.org - National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics
- www.njcaa.org - National Junior College Athletic Association

