

CHARLOTTE VALLEY/
SCHENEVUS

VALOR

INTERSCHOLASTIC
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

Student-Athletes and
Parents

2026–2027 School Year

MISSION STATEMENT

The Charlotte Valley–Schenevus Interscholastic Athletic Program believes athletics serve as an extension of the educational experience and provide opportunities for students to develop responsibility, leadership, sportsmanship, teamwork, perseverance, citizenship, and respect for others.

Participation in athletics helps students build character, learn life-long skills, develop healthy habits, and represent their schools and communities with pride.

The purpose of our athletic program is to provide safe, positive, and meaningful experiences that support the academic, social, emotional, and physical growth of all student-athletes.

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC OBJECTIVES

The athletic program strives to:

- Promote athletic and academic excellence
 - Promote good sportsmanship and fair play
 - Develop responsibility, leadership, citizenship, and self-discipline
 - Encourage teamwork, perseverance, and commitment
 - Provide opportunities for students to reach their highest level of proficiency
 - Promote healthy lifestyles and positive decision-making
 - Encourage broad student participation
 - Maintain athletics as an extension of the educational environment
 - Provide safe and positive experiences for all student-athletes
 - Represent our schools and communities with pride
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PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS

Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege, not a right.

Athletics should help students grow academically, socially, emotionally, and physically. Student-athletes are expected to demonstrate responsibility, integrity, accountability, and respect both in and out of season.

The athletic program is committed to maintaining high standards while recognizing that students learn through reflection, support, intervention, and opportunities to improve.

LEVELS OF ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

Modified Athletics

Modified athletics emphasize skill development, sportsmanship, teamwork, confidence, and enjoyment of participation. It is anticipated that all participants will play in every game, notwithstanding special situations, however, equal playing time between all athletes shall not be expected.

Junior Varsity Athletics

Junior varsity athletics focus on continued skill development, increased competition, teamwork, accountability, and preparation for varsity competition. Coaches are responsible for making athlete playing time decisions in the best interest of the team. Guaranteed participation in contests shall not be expected.

Varsity Athletics

Varsity athletics provide opportunities for students to compete at the highest level while demonstrating leadership, commitment, sportsmanship, academic responsibility, and school pride. Coaches are responsible for making athlete playing time decisions in the best interest of the team. Guaranteed participation in contests shall not be expected.

TEAMS

Fall

- Modified Boys and Girls Soccer
- Varsity Boys and Girls Soccer
- Golf

Winter

- Modified Boys and Girls Basketball
- Junior Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball
- Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball
- Cheerleading

Spring

- Modified Boys Baseball
 - Modified Girls Softball
 - Varsity Boys Baseball
 - Varsity Girls Softball
 - Tennis
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ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Prior to participation in practices or contests, student-athletes must:

- Have a completed athletic participation registration completed through Arbiter and be approved by the school nurse.
- Have a valid physical examination on file.
- Complete required health history updates each season.
- Meet NYSPHSAA eligibility requirements.
- Meet district academic eligibility requirements.
- Meet all team and district expectations.

Physical examinations are valid for twelve continuous months unless otherwise determined by a medical provider.

Students requiring medical treatment for an injury must provide written medical clearance prior to returning to participation.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Athletics are an extension of the educational program. Academic success remains the primary responsibility of all student-athletes.

Athletes are required to adhere to the Academic Eligibility Policy of their respective School District.

ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS

Attendance at school, practices, contests, meetings, and team activities is expected.

Student-athletes must be present and on time for the school day.

Students arriving after 10:00 a.m. may not participate in practices or contests that day unless the absence is due to a documented appointment, school-sponsored activity, or administrative approval.

Students who leave school due to illness may not participate in practices or contests that day unless cleared by the school nurse and administration.

Athletes are expected to notify coaches in advance whenever possible regarding absences or tardiness.

Excessive unexcused absences may result in disciplinary consequences.

If school is closed due to emergency conditions, practices and contests are generally canceled unless otherwise approved and communicated by administration.

TEAM COMMITMENT AND QUITTING POLICY

Participation on an athletic team represents a commitment to teammates, coaches, and the school community.

Student-athletes may leave a team without penalty prior to participating in their first official contest.

Once a student-athlete has participated in their first official contest, any decision to leave a team must include a meeting with the “Athletic Committee”, which includes the coach(es), Athletic Director, and a school administrator) within one week of the decision.

The purpose of this meeting is to review concerns, discuss expectations, and ensure all parties have had the opportunity to communicate before a final decision on subsequent consequences is made. After a decision has been made by the Athletic Committee, the student-athlete and/or his/her parent/guardian may formally appeal the decision to the Superintendent within five (5) days. The Superintendent’s decision is final.

Students who leave a team after their first contest without completing the required meeting process shall be ineligible to participate in that same sport during the following school year.

Senior student-athletes who quit a team after the first contest without following the required process shall be required to sit out the next athletic season for which they register.

Exceptions may be granted for documented medical reasons, family emergencies, academic concerns, or other extenuating circumstances as determined by administration.

TRANSPORTATION

Students are expected to ride district transportation to and from practices and contests.

The student-athletes’ home district may, under special circumstances, approve a student-athlete to self-transport or by a parent/guardian with written permission. This

approval is intended for emergency or short-term, special situations, not for extended durations of time.

On weekends, vacations, non-instructional days, or other approved circumstances district transportation for practices is not provided. Student athletes are required to arrange their own transportation.

For combined Charlotte Valley–Schenevus athletic programs, contests held at either Charlotte Valley or Schenevus shall be considered home contests for all participants. Upon coaches discretion, student-athletes may travel directly to those locations with parent permission. Transportation procedures may be adjusted when necessary to reduce travel burdens while maintaining safety and supervision.

SPORTSMANSHIP EXPECTATIONS

Student-athletes are expected to demonstrate:

- Respect
- Integrity
- Fair play
- Self-control
- Responsibility

Unsportsmanlike conduct toward teammates, opponents, officials, spectators, coaches, or school personnel may result in athletic disciplinary action.

Athletes ejected from contests are subject to NYSPHSAA, Section IV, league, and school consequences.

HAZING, HARASSMENT, AND BULLYING

The district prohibits:

- Hazing
- Bullying
- Cyberbullying
- Harassment
- Discrimination
- Retaliation

Conduct that humiliates, threatens, intimidates, excludes, or endangers another individual is prohibited and may result in school and athletic consequences.

SUBSTANCE USE EXPECTATIONS

Student-athletes are prohibited from possessing, using, distributing, or being under the influence of:

- Alcohol
- Tobacco products
- Vaping products
- Illegal drugs
- Unauthorized controlled substances
- Performance-enhancing substances
- Misused prescription or over-the-counter medications
- Any other substance outlined in the Code of Conduct

First Offense

- Suspension from 25% of scheduled regular-season contests
- If contests remain, suspension carries over to the next season of participation
- Completion of an approved NFHS educational course before returning to competition
- Continued practice participation is required.

Second Offense

- Suspension from 50% of scheduled regular-season contests
- Remaining contests carry over if not fully served
- Completion of an approved NFHS educational course
- Completion of an approved restorative assignment
- Restorative assignment presented to coach and/or team
- Continued practice participation is required.

Third Offense

- Suspension from athletics for one calendar year from the date of the violation
- Administrative review required before reinstatement.

Offense continuum to the Substance Use Expectations are per year for each athlete.

ATTENDANCE AT PARTIES OR GATHERINGS

Student-athletes are expected to avoid gatherings where underage alcohol use, vaping, drug use, or other prohibited activities are occurring.

When credible evidence establishes attendance but not possession or consumption, consequences may include:

- Conference with coach
- Conference with Athletic Director
- Restorative assignment
- Team service activity
- Loss of starting status
- Sitting part of a contest
- Sitting one full contest

Contest suspensions are generally not assigned solely for attendance at a gathering unless additional violations are present.

SOCIAL MEDIA EXPECTATIONS

Student-athletes are expected to use social media responsibly.

Posts, photographs, videos, comments, messages, or online behavior involving bullying, harassment, hazing, discrimination, threats, promotion of substance use, or conduct that substantially disrupts the educational environment may result in athletic and/or school consequences.

SPECTATOR EXPECTATIONS

Spectators are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship and respectful behavior at all athletic events.

The following behaviors are prohibited:

- Taunting
- Profanity
- Harassment
- Discrimination
- Disrespect toward officials, players, coaches, or spectators
- Throwing objects
- Use of artificial noisemakers during play where prohibited

- Disruptive or unsafe behavior

Individuals demonstrating inappropriate behavior may be removed from athletic events and may lose future attendance privileges.

COMMUNICATION WITH COACHES

Positive communication between parents, athletes, and coaches is essential.

Student-athletes should communicate directly with coaches whenever appropriate.

Parents should schedule meetings with coaches regarding concerns.

Parents and spectators should not confront coaches before, during, or immediately after contests.

A minimum 24-hour waiting period is expected before addressing concerns, which includes face-to-face interactions, emails, phone calls, text messages, social media communications, or any other form of contact.

If concerns remain unresolved:

- Meet with the coach.
 - Contact the Athletic Director.
 - Contact the Building Principal.
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TEAM SELECTION

Participation opportunities vary by sport.

Some teams may have roster limitations due to:

- Safety considerations
- Facility limitations
- Equipment availability
- Competitive balance
- Coaching supervision requirements

Team selection decisions are made by coaches and are based on factors such as:

- Skill level
- Effort
- Attendance
- Attitude

- Sportsmanship
- Position needs
- Team balance

Team selection decisions are final.

Advanced Placement: Prior to communication with athletes/parents/guardians, coaches recommend athletes for advanced placement to the Athletic Director/Coordinator. The athletic director will communicate with athletes/parents/guardians and follow the prescribed Advanced Placement procedures set forth by the NYSPHSAA.

EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

Student-athletes are responsible for district-issued equipment and uniforms.

Athletes and parent/guardians are financially responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged equipment. Equipment must be returned or paid for before future participation.

RISK OF INJURY ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Participation in interscholastic athletics involves inherent risks, including but not limited to:

- Sprains
- Fractures
- Concussions
- Catastrophic injuries
- Permanent disability
- Death

While every effort is made to provide safe participation opportunities, no athletic activity is completely risk-free.

Student-athletes and parents acknowledge these risks and agree to follow all safety rules, coaching instructions, and medical recommendations. All athletic consents must be completed and approved by the District through Arbiter prior to a student-athlete participating in any practice or contest.

FINAL STATEMENT

Participation in athletics is a valuable educational opportunity.

The goal of the Charlotte Valley–Schenevus Athletic Program is not simply to win contests, but to develop responsible, resilient, respectful young adults who positively represent themselves, their schools, teammates, and communities.