



SAHSSA ATHLETICS MISSION STATEMENT

The San Angelo Home School Sports Association is a non-profit 501(c)3 sports organization that provides and promotes competitive home school athletics in San Angelo, TX.

Our organization is a Christ-centered athletic and training program that develops our players mentally, and physically, all while we teach the fundamentals of sports. We have fun while we do it. Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

We believe all home schooled and private school children should have every opportunity that public school children have, including competitive athletics at all levels and in all sports. We compete versus area public and private schools as well as other home school organizations.

San Angelo Home School Sports Association complies with HCHC requirements to maintain eligibility for all Saints Homeschool teams. www.nchlive.com

SAHSSA PROGRAM GOALS

SAHSSA ATHLETICS CORE VALUES

SAHSSA is dedicated to helping student-athletes to realize their highest potential—physically, mentally and spiritually.

There are ten core values within the athletics department. Each coach strives to instill the following core values in every athlete:

1. **Diligence** ... they are hard workers; they keep to the task and finish it.
 2. **Discipline** ... they conduct themselves in an orderly and obedient fashion.
 3. **Humility** ... they are free from pride and arrogance; their achievements are a byproduct.
 4. **Integrity** ... they are what they claim to be and demonstrate this by consistently do what is right.
 5. **Self-control** ... they use wise self-restraint in all aspects of life.
 6. **Responsibility** ... they are dependable; they know what they need to do, and they do it.
 7. **Submissiveness** ... they are willing to yield to leaderships' authority, judgment, or decision.
 8. **Attentiveness** ... they demonstrate interest in the words, actions, and feelings of someone else.
 9. **Supportiveness** ... they help others in words and actions.
10. **Contentment** ... they are happy and satisfied with what they have.

In addition, each coach teaches and exemplifies the following characteristics:

1. **Safety** ... we always maintain the highest safety standards.
2. **Character** ... we focus on developing character traits in our athletes.
3. **Skill Development** ... we teach fundamental sport skills.
4. **Participation** ... we provide opportunity for maximum participation.
5. **Mentoring Relationships** ...we establish coaches as mentors to our student-athletes.
6. **Competence** ... we build competent teams.
7. **Competition** ... we build competitive teams.
8. **Peer Relationships** ... we strengthen peer relationships.
9. **Fun** ... we make the athletic experience enjoyable for the athlete.

SAHSSA STATEMENT OF FAITH

- We believe the Holy Bible, both Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired Word of God, without error, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of man, and the Divine and final authority for all Christian faith and life.
- We believe in one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- We believe Jesus Christ is the true God and the true man, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Having lived sinlessly, He truly died and was resurrected in His own body for our atonement and resurrection.
- We believe that only through His death by the shedding of His blood and His resurrection are we provided justification and salvation.
- We believe in the bodily resurrection of all mankind; of the believer to an everlasting dwelling with God, of the unbeliever to an everlasting, conscious hell without God.
- We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, to convict men of sin, regenerate the believing sinner, indwell, guide, instruct and empower the believer for godly living and service.

- We believe in the imminent, bodily return of the Lord Jesus Christ.
SAHSSA Athletics does not require our student-athletes or their families to sign the statement of faith. We do require that all who partner with SAHSSA Athletics to be aware that we are a faith-based program and therefore will promote and further the kingdom of God in all we do. We do ask that you are supportive of that philosophy and make the overall experience at SAHSSA positive for all families involved in the sport.

SAHSSA ATHLETICS EXPECTATIONS

SAHSSA Athletics expects that:

- Student-athletes will demonstrate respect for opponents with the highest standards of character and sportsmanship
- Student-athletes will display excellence and integrity in their schoolwork and that education will take precedence over athletic endeavors.
- Student-athletes will seek to win the right way – with honor, sportsmanship, and discipline.
- Student-athletes will believe in something bigger than themselves – TEAM – and will hold each other accountable.
- Student-athletes and their families will always conduct themselves with grace, humility, and high character.
- Student-athletes will realize that participation in athletics will prepare them to make a positive contribution to society in the years to come.
- Student-athletes and their families will understand that conflict will be managed constructively and in such a way that facilitates a positive outcome and reconciliation.
- Student-athletes and their families will understand that participating on a SAHSSA Athletics team can be demanding and that it requires a substantial commitment throughout the season for the program to be successful.

ROLES

SAHSSA Board of Directors

The Board of Directors along with the Executive Director are responsible for all policies, procedures, rules, and regulations related to SAHSSA Athletics activities and operations.

SAHSSA Athletics Coaches

SAHSSA Athletic Coaches are responsible for creating a fun, safe, and challenging environment in which student-athletes will receive a high level of instruction and competition. They always have the responsibility to model Christ-like behavior and attitude and will take very seriously the opportunity to mold young lives for Christ.

SAHSSA Team Managers

SAHSSA Team Managers are responsible for creating a fun, safe, and challenging environment in which student-athletes will receive a high level of instruction and competition. They help Head Coaches in responsibility to model Christ-like behavior and attitude and will take very seriously the opportunity to mold young lives for Christ.

PARENT/GUARDIAN EXPECTATIONS

Parents/guardians are vital to the success of SAHSSA Athletics. We are so very appreciative of the assistance parents/guardians provide for their SAHSSA student-athletes, whether it is driving them to practice or to an athletic event or sacrificing family time to accommodate athletic schedules. Because SAHSSA is a non-profit organization, comprised mainly of volunteers, we need the participation of ALL our families to make it a successful organization. Please expect to be involved in the sport and to assist as needed.

SAHSSA Athletics parents/guardians are needed and expected to play a supporting role in this organization and are expected to volunteer throughout the season:

- Scorekeeper/timeclock
- Team mom/dad
- Fundraiser coordinator
- Admissions
- Concessions
- Setup/cleanup
- Needs according to the sport

Parents/guardians will need to sign the SAHSSA Code of Conduct along with their student-athlete.

PARTICIPATION

Student-athletes may participate in SAHSSA Athletics provided they are currently being home schooled in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas and are not enrolled or in attendance full-time at a public school. SAHSSA does partner with and invite small private school athletes from the Concho Valley. These athletes do not have their specific sport available at the school they are enrolled at. No person who has graduated from high school (homeschool, public, or private), or who has received a high school diploma (homeschool, public or private), or who has received a GED certificate may participate as an athlete in SAHSSA Athletics.

Playing time is not a right; it is a privilege earned by attendance at practices and games, hard work, a good attitude, being a team player, skill level, etc. It is also affected by other reasonable requirements set by individual coaches.

HOMESCHOOL COMPETITIONS AND TOURNAMENTS

In some sports there are exclusive homeschool competitions where only homeschool organizations are participating. In these competitions the teams formed are based upon age such as 18 and under, 16 and under, 14 and under, etc. For these specific homeschool competitions, SAHSSA will follow the rules set forth by the hosting organization. Many times, at these competitions the terms “Varsity” and “Junior Varsity” are not the appropriate description of the teams as they are replaced with terms such as the 18 and under team or the 16 and under team.

QUITTING A SPORT

SAHSSA Athletics feels that once a student athlete is chosen for a team and has made a commitment (registration and payment) to that team that commitment should be honored through to the end of the season. Character is not built by quitting nor does it teach our student-athletes to persevere through adversity. If the desire to quit is due to injuries or academic ineligibility, SAHSSA Athletics, desires that the student-athlete still see themselves as part of the team.

It is understood that there will be times that a student-athlete and/or his family make the decision to leave a sport during the season, although it is highly discouraged. Whatever the reason may be, a student-athlete must follow the procedures listed below:

- An injured player is expected to attend all practices and games if they are physically able.
- A student-athlete and their parent/guardian, who are considering quitting a team, must schedule a face to face meeting with the coach and commissioner to seek a solution.
- It is highly recommended that a conference be scheduled with the parents/guardian, the student-athlete, the commissioner, and the Athletic Administrator prior to the final decision of a player to quit.
- Should the final decision be made to quit, the student-athlete and his family are responsible for the immediate return of all SAHSSA Athletics equipment and/or uniforms - clean and undamaged. Any equipment or uniforms not returned or that may be damaged must be paid to SAHSSA at the replacement costs.
- A player that quits a team may not attend skills assessments for another team that same season, unless permission is gained from commissioners, both coaches and the Athletic Administrator.
- The Athletic Administrator, the Executive Director and the SAHSSA Board will decide any

exceptions to these policies. Exceptions do not include personality clashes, insufficient playing time, or a change of heart. In order to be considered an exception, the situation must be serious and must have unusual consequences for the persons involved.

There will be a one-week grace period, at the start of the season, that a student-athlete can use to decide that a certain sport is not for them.

FEES AND REGISTRATION

- SAHSSA Athletics requires the purchase of a Saint Pass to participate in any SAHSSA Athletics sport. The Saint Pass is \$21 per family per year. We never wish the Saint Pass to become an economic burden to anyone, so if it is for your family, contact the Athletic office to work out an alternate arrangement.
 - All SAHSSA Athletics registrations are online. A fully completed online registration must be submitted to SAHSSA prior to participation in any sport. Each student-athlete must have a completed registration for each sport in which they are registering.
 - Registration fees are due at registration. The fees for each sport are based on how many players are on the team at the start of the season. Field rental, tournament fees and the cost of officials are all calculated and distributed evenly among the team based on those numbers. For that reason, fees will differ for each sport as well as by level – a varsity level sport will have higher fees than a middle school level sport.
- Note: All fees and monies are paid directly to SAHSSA and not to coaches or team managers or other leaders. SAHSSA is a 501©3 organization and is audited for federal tax-exempt purposes and must maintain appropriate bookkeeping and accounting of all registration fees and monies associated with each sport.
- If needed a family may contact the SAHSSA Athletics office to make payment plan arrangements. A down payment will be required. Those requesting payment plans MUST contact the Athletic Administrator BEFORE registering. All registration fees must be paid in full prior to the first competition of the season. Student-athletes may not participate in a sport for which they have not paid their registration fees or made payment arrangements.
 - Once practices have begun, after the first week of participation, no registration fees may be refunded. The SAHSSA Athletics Committee may approve a refund in whole or part based on a case by case basis. Families that are requesting a refund in whole or part must present that request in writing to the SAHSSA Athletics office.

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ATTENDANCE

A team can only effectively function when all participants are present. A student-athlete who misses practice not only hurts themselves but their team. Players have an obligation to their team and their coach. This obligation includes consistent attendance at practices and competitions/games. Student-athletes and their families are provided a schedule of both practices and competitions/games by the first week of practice. It is recommended that student-athletes and their families use those schedules to play accordingly.

DISCIPLINE

By virtue of participation in SAHSSA Athletics, student-athletes and their families voluntarily accept the following codes of conduct as stated by SAHSSA Athletics. All participants are expected and encouraged to exercise personal self-discipline, restraint, and genuine kindness toward others.

STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

The actions of a student-athlete are a direct reflection of themselves, their parents/guardians, their team, and their community. A student-athlete's involvement in SAHSSA Athletics, provides opportunities and experiences that are important to the development of a well-rounded student-athlete. Because participation in SAHSSA Athletics is a privilege, a high standard of conduct will be expected both on and off the field or court.

Student-athletes shall follow this code and avoid any actions which may lead to an unfavorable view of the student-athlete, their teammates, coaches, family, SAHSSA Athletics, or the community. Any alleged violations will be subject to review by the coaches, commissioners, Athletic Administrator, Executive Director, and SAHSSA Board and may result in subsequent action. This listing is not intended to be all inclusive, as SAHSSA Athletics reserves the right to make final determination of what conduct is considered unsatisfactory.

- Bullying (physical, emotional, or electronic), hazing, or harassment
- Disorderly or destructive actions
- Unsportsmanlike conduct
- Profanity, vulgarity, obscenity, offensive speech and/or gestures
- Any posting or communication via social networks or media outlets (Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, blogs, etc.) which advocates the violation of any SAHSSA Athletics policy and/or team policy would be considered unacceptable and inappropriate.
- Dishonesty in any form, including lying, theft, or cheating.
- Gambling
- Defiance of authority including flagrant disrespect, disobedience, and/or rebellious or disrespectful attitude.
- The possession and/or distribution of literature, pictures, posters, or recordings presenting an indecent or immoral activity or ungodly belief or philosophy. This includes distribution of sexually suggestive material via cell phones, cameras, computers, or "sexting" of any kind. The definition of sexting is the sending, receiving, or forwarding sexually explicit or suggestive messages, photos, or images via cell phone, computer or other digital or electronic devices.
- Sale, possession, and/or use of tobacco (this includes electronic cigarettes and vapor products), alcohol or illegal drugs (including any prescription drugs not prescribed to the student-athlete), marijuana, or other controlled substances or the implied use of these.
- Attending or hosting a party that involves alcohol, illegal drugs, marijuana, or other controlled substances. It is the obligation of the student-athlete to immediately leave the premises once they learn a gathering or party involves alcohol, drugs, etc.
- The use of, possession of, or the distribution of anabolic/androgenic steroids or other performance enhancing substances
- Immoral conduct, immodesty and conduct implying immorality
- Use or possession of weapons and/or dangerous items at any athletic event to include guns, knives, explosive devices, etc.
- Any violations of the law

PARENT/GUARDIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

It is important that you understand the important role you play as a parent/guardian of a SAHSSA Athletics student-athlete. You and your student-athlete represent your family and our program.

Parents/Guardians shall follow this code and avoid any actions which may lead to an unfavorable view of themselves, coaches, family, SAHSSA Athletics, or the community. Any alleged violations will be subject to review by the coaches, commissioners, Athletic Administrator, Executive Director, and SAHSSA Board and may result in subsequent action. This listing is not intended to be all inclusive, as SAHSSA Athletics reserves the right to make final determination of what conduct is considered unsatisfactory.

As the parent/guardian of a SAHSSA Athletics student-athlete, I agree with the following:

- **Be positive and encouraging.** Uplift your student-athlete, coaches, team, commissioner, and SAHSSA.
- **Teach your students/athletes to abide by the rules of the game in letter and spirit.** Tactics promoting unfairness will not be tolerated. Ensure that your student-athlete is being homeschooled in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas.
- **Develop good relationships with your student-athlete and their teammates.** Your student- athlete has been placed on this team for a purpose. Use this opportunity to minister and encourage others. You never know who is hurting and needs your show of love in their life.
- **Develop good relationships with other parents/guardians.** You need their support as much as they need yours!
- **Develop good relationships with the coaches.** Get to know them. Communicate with them with an open heart and mind. Set appointments to meet with them rather than approaching them before or after games or practices. Be open, honest and use respectful words. Inform the coach and/or commissioner if your student-athlete does not maintain a satisfactory academic level.
- **Help your student-athlete develop unity within their team.** Teach them to respect the seriousness of their commitment by making sure they attend all practices, meetings, games, and team building opportunities.
- **Do not use profanity, questionable slang or “trash talk.”** Anything that can be construed as negative or insulting must be avoided.
- **Never criticize coaches or officials.** Officials and coaches represent authority and obedience to their authority is not predicated on whether one agrees with it or not. If you “bad mouth” your student-athlete’s coaches or officials, you cannot expect them to play for or respect these individuals.
- **Never be involved in negative cheering.** Booing officials or opponents or getting into negative chants sets a bad example for your student-athletes and is counter to all we say and believe at SAHSSA Athletics. Examples might include chanting “Air Ball” when the other team misses a shot or screaming while an opponent is on the free throw line.
- **Never speak negatively around student-athletes or other parents/guardians about:**
 - **SAHSSA Athletics:** a negative atmosphere is contagious. Instead, create a positive atmosphere of gratitude.
 - **Other student-athletes or parents/guardians:** speak to parents/guardian only about you and your student-athlete(s). Speak to student-athletes only in an encouraging manner.
 - **Your student-athlete’s teammates:** this only allows your student-athlete to make excuses for their own performance. Do not offer excuses for your student-athlete if they are not playing. Encourage them to do their best and to keep striving for worthwhile goals.

- **Always resolve differences with coaches privately.** Call to make an appointment to speak with the coach privately, honoring the “24 Hour Rule” and following the Matthew 18 principle. Think about what you will say and what is motivating your discussion.
- **Maintain class and character.** Your actions reflect upon you, your family, and SAHSSA Athletics. You set the example for your student-athlete. Refrain from the use of tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, and illegal drugs before and during all SAHSSA Athletics activities.
- **Be an example and a guard.** Set the standard high for behavior and appearance. Do not be afraid to speak in love to those whose behavior might undermine SAHSSA Athletics reputation.
- **Always dress appropriately.** Modest attire that does not attract attention to you and away from your student-athlete should be worn.
- **Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.** Both parents/guardians and spectators need to be strong in this area. Smile and shake hands with visitors before and after games regardless of the outcome.
- **Recognize the success of your opponent.** Compliment good play of student-athletes from the opposing team. Congratulate their coaches on a well-coached game.
- **Insist that your student-athlete follow instructions.** Coaches depend upon a player’s ability to follow orders immediately and without question. Questions may be raised at an appropriate time such as at practice or after games when there is a time for explanation. This builds respect for authority and trust between student-athletes and coaches.
- **Work with the officials...do not work the officials.** Badgering officials works against our teams and comes at the price of our testimony and ability to influence others. There is never a time at any contest where a parent/guardian is afforded an opportunity to say anything to an official other than, “Thank you.” Without these men and women and their willingness to officiate, there would be no game.
- **Remain in the stands.** Never attempt to approach the field, court, bench, press box, score table or officials before, during or after a game. Socially visiting with coaches briefly after the game is encouraged. Game officials are off-limits.
- **THIS IS A GAME!!! Have fun, touch lives, and grow yourself!** You can be a positive influence, like no one else may be able to, in the lives of your student-athletes and their peers. Enjoy this time in their lives and help them to enjoy it as well. Games, plays and officials will all be forgotten, but your behavior and attitude will stay with your student-athlete forever.

DISCIPLINARY MEASURES FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES AND PARENTS/GUARDIANS

It is the goal of SAHSSA Athletics to work in conjunction with parents/guardians within the process of discipline, guide in the restoration of relationships with those the offense is against, use relational influence to produce growth, correction and right choices, and finally do so in the context that seeks the best interest of both parties involved and the program as a whole.

Disciplinary measures may include fines, compensation for damages, work assignments, probation, suspension, and/or dismissal. Work assignments and probation may be levied by the coach, suspensions must be approved by the commissioner, fines and dismissals must be approved by the commissioner in coordination with the Athletic Administrator.

- Work assignments are to be completed exactly as requested within a specified time limit.
- Probation may involve loss of privileges and exclusions from sports activities.
- Compensation for damage will not exceed the cost to repair or replace property damaged by the individual and may include any unexpected expense that may be incurred.
- Suspension is a removal from the roster with an option to reapply after a specified period. This normally requires an individual to leave the facility immediately and they may not participate (practices, games, or tournaments) with the team until permission is granted to return.
- Dismissal is the last resort and means permanent removal from the program. A dismissed individual may not be present in any facilities or at any functions related to SAHSSA Athletics without the written permission of the Athletic Administrator and the SAHSSA Board.

INCIDENT REPORT

When an individual violates policy or rules, a parent/guardian, coach, or anyone involved may submit an incident report. The incident report is used as documentation for disciplinary measures that may need to be carried out by the administration. Incident reports must be filled out online.

The incident report online form is found on our website: SAHSSA.COM This form is an essential part of resolution to an issue when the issue is not able to be resolved on an individual level.

The SAHSSA Board reserves the right to make final determination of what conduct is considered unsatisfactory. As we consider these matters, may we be mindful of the following verses:

*“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, **HOLY AND PLEASING TO GOD**—this is your true and proper worship...so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” Romans 12:1 & 5 (NIV)*

BEHAVIOR AT SAHSSA ATHLETIC EVENTS

For the sake of our young people, it is important that we all rise above the typical competitive sports atmosphere that tends to stir up and encourage negative responses toward opponents. Let us all put aside these negative responses and encourage one another in love; may our desire be to build up EVERY person. This applies to the players and coaching staff as well as spectators.

The following apply to all athletic events:

- While at any SAHSSA Athletics event, students-athletes must remain in designated areas for that event.
- Ridicule, manipulative intimidation (e.g. making noises during an opponent's free throws), boastful chanting, jeering, booing, and belittling, angry or hurtful gestures are not admirable and are therefore prohibited.
- Student-athletes participating in SAHSSA Athletics should never start or contribute in any way to a fight on or off the field or court. No SAHSSA player should ever leave the bench during a fight.
- Banners, posters, signs, etc. containing positive, encouraging, and supportive messages are allowed. Negative or insulting messages in any form are never allowed.
- Never abuse or misuse the facilities of another organization. Remember SAHSSA Athletics is a guest.

DRESS CODE AND UNIFORMS

The following dress code applies to all student-athletes, when representing SAHSSA Athletics.

- **Always dress appropriately.** Modest attire that does not attract attention to you and away from your team should be worn when not on the court/field.

Uniforms are the property of SAHSSA, not the players, unless the coach of a sport has the student-athletes purchase their own uniforms. The uniforms are to be worn at games and game-related activities only. Each team member is responsible for the proper care of their game uniform. If a player damages or loses a uniform, that player must pay for a replacement.

- Whenever the uniform is worn, it must be worn in its entirety.
- No undergarments of any kind may be visible at any time.
- Clothing worn during practice times must be as modest as the game uniform.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND COMMUNICATION

Parenting and coaching can both be difficult vocations. By keeping lines of communication open between parents/guardians and coaches, many potential problems may be avoided. This begins with clear communication from the coaching staff to the parents/guardians and student-athletes. The following guidelines are in place to help resolve conflicts, if they occur, in an appropriate manner that upholds the dignity of student-athletes, parents/guardians and coaches. One of the goals of SAHSSA Athletics is to instill in our student-athletes a sense of ownership and responsibility for their actions. Therefore, it is important that student-athletes learn necessary communication skills and how to resolve conflicts.

The Matthew 18 Principle

Matthew 18:15-17 states – *“Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.”*

SAHSSA Athletics strongly believes in this principle, here are the guidelines to follow.

Step 1: One of the greatest opportunities for student-athletes is learning skills for effective and Biblical conflict resolution. When a concern arises, student-athletes are encouraged to speak with their coach directly.

Step 2: If the student-athlete and the coach cannot come to a mutually agreeable solution or are unable to resolve the issue together, then the parents/guardians may contact the coach. If the parent/guardian has an issue or concern, the parent/guardian should contact the coach at an appropriate time for both parties. An upset parent/guardian should abide by the 24-hour rule.

24-Hour Rule - Do not confront a coach immediately before or after a contest or practice. Wait for a full twenty-four hours before making contact of any sort (including emails or text messages). Because meetings of this nature rarely promote resolution, the “24 Hour Rule” will always be in effect. This not only allows for reflection, but for emotions to settle so rational, facts-oriented discussions can take place.

Under no circumstances should a parent/guardian approach a coach or another parent/guardian in a harsh manner.

Step 3: If the discussion between the coach and parents/guardians does not resolve the issue then the matter may be brought before the Team Manager from the board. The student-athlete, parents/guardians, and coach should all be present at this meeting.

Step 4: If the Team Manager is not able to provide a satisfactory solution, the issue or concern will be brought before the SAHSSA Board who will meet with all parties involved. This step shall be accomplished in writing preceding the in-person meeting with the Athletic Administrator. If this meeting does not bring resolution, the parents/guardians should fill out an incident report.

All aspects of an issue should be kept confidential. Even in disagreements, your student-athlete must understand that parent/guardians and coaches are a team and want what is best for the student-athlete.

SAHSSA will always prefer to find common ground and reconcile issues as we believe that we as adults model community, forgiveness and peaceful resolution to our children and those lessons are more valuable than any skill in any sport.

TRAVEL POLICIES

Athletic competition is local, state, and national. Therefore, it may involve some travel away from home. In the event that a student-athlete's parents/guardians are unable to accompany them on a scheduled trip out of town, it is required that the parents/guardians provide an adult sponsor to take their place. The parents/guardians are responsible for briefing the sponsor on SAHSSA Athletics policies, ensuring that the sponsor will continue the commitment already indicated by the parents/guardians and student-athlete. It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians and the designated sponsor to settle issues such as transportation, expenses, medical releases, etc. A written sponsor form must be on file in the Athletic office

MEDICAL POLICIES

Participation in athletics involves a certain degree of risk for injury. Such physical injury can occur in any type of sports activity and can vary in nature. Athletic injuries can run from minor injuries, such as bruises and scrapes, to more serious injuries such as fractures, dislocations, concussions, paralysis and even death.

It is strongly recommended that all SAHSSA student-athletes have a current sports physical. These physicals are valid for one year and parent/guardians must be able to provide a copy upon request by SAHSSA Athletics.

All injuries sustained by a student-athlete are to be reported to their coach immediately. This is the responsibility of the student-athlete.

Student-athletes with illness/injury sustained in an athletic event that require a visit to the doctor, hospital or primary care facility **must receive written clearance by a physician in order to return to participate** in SAHSSA Athletic activities. Student-athletes should, when necessary, seek care from their family physician or a specialist.

Student-athletes must always ensure they are healthy prior to participating in a practice, contest, or team event. This action helps the team stay healthy and it helps the student-athlete return to health quickly. Anyone with a fever of 100.9 degrees F or above or other indications of being contagious should stay home until their health is better.

FUNDRAISING

SAHSSA is a 501c3 organization and as such must abide by tax laws and regulations consistent with the tax-exempt status. Any person or group wishing to run a fundraiser associated with SAHSSA must complete a Fundraising Guidelines and Request form from the Athletic Office and return it to the Athletic Office to be submitted to the Board for approval. No fundraiser activity may begin until the form is approved and returned to you.

CHILD SAFETY & YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY

“Say NO, then GO and TELL”

Sometimes even people that we trust do things that are wrong and can intend to misuse our trust and hurt us. Any act that threatens to harm another’s physical, mental, emotional or spiritual health is wrong. Unfortunately, there are some adults or even other youth who sexually abuse children. SAHSSA is dedicated to equipping our leadership (Board, Coaches, and Team Managers) to guide young men and women to honor God, act with integrity, serve others, and experience a healthy and safe environment through a program of education and the establishment of procedures and policies focused on the prevention of emotional, physical, spiritual and sexual abuse. All members – both adults and youth – hold the KEYS (“Knowledge of Establishing Youth Safety”) to protecting and safeguarding our youth. These Keys include the following:

- Volunteer Leader screening to be “Registered” as a supervisory Adult with SAHSSA, including:
 - Volunteer applications, including reference checks and agreement to this policy
 - Agreement with the SAHSSA Statement of Faith and Values
 - Successfully passing Criminal Background Check before approval of adult volunteer leaders
 - Additional Criminal Background Check every three years.
- Know the Environment to Keep Youth Safe:
 - Being aware of other events and individuals who might have access to the area
 - Previewing facilities before events and evaluating the safety of the location
 - Knowing who will be in attendance
 - Education about protecting the health and safety of youth
 - Being vigilant for signs of child neglect, physical abuse, emotional abuse and child sexual abuse – including sexual abuse or inappropriate sexual conduct by other youth
 - Abusers cannot be easily identified and are typically trusted by children and their families

NOBODY IS ABOVE THE RULES – ALL SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR OR VIOLATIONS OF POLICIES MUST BE REPORTED

C. Mandatory Reporting and documentation of incidents and/or allegations:

- Regardless of whether you observe it or hear it second hand, SAHSSA requires you to report to law enforcement and/or child protective services, any good-faith suspicion or reasonable belief that any child is or has been physically, sexually or emotionally abused or neglected, has been (whether in person, online or through communication devices) exposed to sexual exploitation, child pornography, solicitation or enticement, or obscene material.
- It is also mandatory to report to SAHSSA any violations of SAHSSA Policies. Use the Incident Report form located online at <https://homeschoolSAHSSA.com>. Report what you have seen or heard immediately and document.

Any sexual contact with a youth – regardless of who the other person is – is wrong and should be reported. The following guidelines can help to reduce the possibility of that happening:

ALL MEMBERS ARE TO ADHERE TO THE SAHSSA GUIDELINES AND POLICIES.

1. Immoral conduct, including physical violence, insults, drugs, alcohol, sexual conduct, inappropriate language, theft and deceit are inconsistent with SAHSSA’s values and policies.
2. Everyone should respect youths’ privacy – especially when it comes to toilets, showering, and sleeping arrangements.

3. Separate accommodations, showers, dressing/changing areas and restrooms for adults and youth are required.
4. It is never acceptable for an adult to be on or in the same bed.
5. No interaction between adults and youth in a bedroom or a bathroom except in limited situations required due to health and safety concerns, in which case the no one-on-one rule must still be followed.
6. While youth will be in close proximity with one another during these times, additional safety procedures apply even youth-to-youth.
7. Any sexual activity or overtures are strictly prohibited.
8. A minimum of two (“registered”) SAHSSA adult leaders must be present for each activity
 - Of the two required leaders, those 18-20 years of age may count for one of the two-deep leadership positions required in the Youth/Leader Ratios and for satisfying the two-deep leadership requirement.
 - The second leader must be age 21 or above except overnight activities where the second leader must be age 25 or above.
9. A youth should never be alone with only one adult (unless it is his/her parent/guardian)
 - This includes electronic communications such as texting and on-line communications
 - This includes transportation to and from SAHSSA activities. If a SAHSSA coach is transporting their own student-athlete, then they may also transport student-athletes that are not related to them, provided there is written permission from the parent/guardian, without the need of another adult. Note, this does not extend to coaches without their student-athlete in the vehicle or to coaches without student-athletes in the program. A coach who wishes to transport one or more student-athletes that are not their own without their own student-athlete along will need a second adult in the vehicle.
 - This includes overnight stays in hotel rooms or other overnight accommodation. Youth shall not stay in a room with one adult unless that adult is his/her parent/guardian.
 - Youth shall not be in hotel rooms or other overnight accommodations by themselves. At least 2 adults (“registered”) must be a part of the room accommodations.
 - Stay in areas designated for the activities and keep doors open.
10. Adults and youth are not to have “secrets,” nor are adults to provide “special treatment,” gifts or “forbidden items” (e.g., tobacco, alcohol or allowing risky behavior) to youth.
11. There should be no secret activities, meetings, or clubs.
12. Appropriate clothing should always be worn – especially for swimming activities.
13. Hazing, bullying, physical hitting and/or corporal punishment (even if intended as discipline) are strictly prohibited.
14. Youth leadership should always be monitored by adult leaders.
15. No inappropriate physical contact
 - No “rough-housing,” butt-slapping, massages, or inappropriate hugs.
 - No touching of children in the genital, breast, or buttocks areas
 - Children may not sit on the lap of an adult other than their parent/guardian.
 - Children should never be touched against their will unless they are in clear danger.
 - Cameras, cell phones and other electronics should never be used inappropriately or in any way that can violate someone’s privacy or cause them any harm.

Youth are instructed that if anyone fails to follow these guidelines, they should report them to their leaders and to their parents/guardians. It is the right thing to do and can help to protect them and others from harm. Likewise, adult leaders are to report any violations of the guidelines directly to SAHSSA. All adults are required to support and help youth adhere to the coaching and instruction they are given in the SAHSSA Program

CLOSING THOUGHTS

May we all encourage one another to not only receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior but also to walk in the Spirit, growing up into Christ who is the Head, living out Christ in all aspects of leadership, self-discipline, individual responsibility, personal integrity and good citizenship.

May we with our whole heart actively seek to be filled with the Lord, developing, and maintaining an appetite for God's word, diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit.

May we be one with the Lord to such an extent that we bring into obedience to Christ our dress, appearance, thought life, conversation, attitudes, habits, and relationships, glorying in the Lord and not ourselves.

May we walk in humility before God and with one another, submitting to authority and being subject to one another.

FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES:

I have read the SAHSSA Student-Athlete Code of Conduct and understand that I may **not** participate without a signed copy of this document on file **online** or in the athletic office. I understand that these expectations are in place to help me grow and mature spiritually, emotionally, and physically. I understand that failure to uphold the expectations outlined will endanger my athletic eligibility and may include, but not limited to, extra conditioning, suspension, or removal from the team.

1. Student-Athlete Signature: _____ Printed
Name: _____ Date: ____/____/____

FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF STUDENT-ATHLETES:

I have read the SAHSSA Athletic Handbook, including the Parent/Guardian Athletic Code of Conduct. I will always support the SAHSSA athletic program and personnel by following all requirements and by attending and volunteering at SAHSSA athletic events. I understand that misconduct may result in my expulsion from an event and possibly future events as well.

Parent / Guardian's Signature

Parent / Guardian's Name (Printed)

Date: ____/____/____

**One signature sheet per family, per school year*

Parent / Guardian's Signature

Parent / Guardian's Name (Printed)

Date: ____/____/____

You may also confirm you have read these guidelines with Online Registration.

Visit SAHSSA.COM