



**SNEED**



*Snead Middle School Athletics*

**Parent/Student-Athlete  
Athletic Policy Manual**

## **Purpose:**

This manual is to be used and followed by all student-athletes of Sneed Middle School, as well as parents. This manual outlines the rules and requirements that will be applied to all participants in Sneed Middle School Athletics. If there is a question about a rule or requirement in this policy manual, the student-athlete and/or parent may contact the Director of Athletics for clarification.

## **Philosophy:**

Athletics play an important part in the lives of students at Sneed Middle School. Young people can learn useful skills from participation in interscholastic athletics. Student-athletes must remember that participation in Sneed Middle School Athletics is a PRIVILEGE that includes the responsibility of being a positive role model to self, the athletic team, the student body, and the greater Sneed Middle School community. Student-athletes learn useful lessons including teamwork, sportsmanship, conflict resolution, and integrity. Our coaching leadership consists of people of the highest quality, who exhibit exemplary behavior, integrity, and character. Our goal is to make Sneed Middle School Athletics a model for other athletic programs to follow.

## **Objectives:**

- To provide a positive image of Sneed Middle School Athletics, as well as Sneed Middle School as a whole.
- To provide all students with an opportunity to experience playing with an interscholastic athletic program
- To work together for the overall success of the Athletics program
- **To monitor each student's academic progress and stress the importance of being well-rounded student-athletes**
- To produce a standard of athletic excellence while stressing the concepts of sportsmanship, fair play, character, and integrity
- To ensure the growth of Sneed Middle School Athletics with a continuing increase in student and parent involvement
- To maintain an open line of communication to athletes, parents, the school, and the larger community

## **Sneed Middle School Athletics- Parent/Coach Relationship**

Participating in athletics can be a very rewarding experience for student-athletes, as well as their families. In order for the relationship between parents and coaches to be effective, there must be clearly stated expectations. As the parents of a student-athlete, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This is why clear communication between the coach and parents is vital.

As a parent, you should expect to hear about:

- The coaching philosophy of the coach
- Expectations that the coach has for your child (the member of the team)
- Times and locations of practices and contests
- Team Requirements (Athletic and Academic)
- Procedures for your child in case of a sports-related injury
- Discipline that may result in the denial of your child's participation.

Coaches should expect to hear from parents regarding:

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Notification of any schedule conflicts with sufficient notice
- Any questions or concerns about a coach's expectations and/or philosophy

While participating in athletics at Sneed Middle School, your child will experience some rewarding and gratifying moments. There may also be some moments when things do not go the way your child wishes. If these situations arise, discussion with the coach is encouraged, in a professional and rational fashion.

Coaches are uniquely qualified to evaluate a child's ability on the fields of competition. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. Certain things can and should be discussed with the coach. There are some items, however, that should be left up to the coach's discretion.

**If there are any concerns, parents are encouraged to talk to coaches regarding:**

- **The treatment of your child, mentally and physically**
- **Ways to help your child improve his/her athletic performance**
- **Concerns about your child's behavior**
- **Specific Health Issues expressed to the head coach at a mutually convenient time**
- **Scheduling Conflicts (discussed well in advance)**
- **Their commitment to the program, and how they plan to contribute to the program's success**

**Parents ARE NOT ALLOWED to talk to coaches regarding:**

- **Playing Time**
- **Team Strategy**
- **Play Calling**
- **Other Student-Athletes**

**Meetings between the parent and coach are strongly encouraged, if the situation requires it. This helps each party gain a clear understanding of each other's position. If the situation cannot be resolved between the coach and parent, another meeting can be scheduled with the Director of Athletics present, and school principal, if necessary.**

**NOTE: Please DO NOT attempt to confront a coach immediately before, during, or immediately after a contest or a practice. These can be emotional times for the coach and parents, and no resolution of an issue can be reached during these times.**

**PROTOCOL FOR RESOLUTION**

**If a student-athlete or his/her parents have any concerns about any portion of an athletic team or the Department of Athletics, the proper chain of command for resolution is as follows:**

- A. Athlete to Coach**
- B. Parent to Coach**
- C. Parent to Athletic Director**
- D. Parent to Principal**

## **Parent/Student Behavior at Sneed Middle School Sporting Events**

We, the Athletics Department of Sneed Middle School, welcome you to our athletic facilities. We invite you to cheer and support our student-athletes on all our fields of competition. We also stress that good sportsmanship be exhibited by players AND spectators, in a safe, family-friendly environment. To ensure that this happens, we ask that you observe and follow these rules and policies regarding our athletic events:

- **Sneed Middle School** is an alcohol-free, drug-free campus.
- We ask that spectators remain in our bleachers during competition. After a contest has officially ended (i.e. coaches, teams, and officials have left the field/court), you are allowed to enter the field of play.
- No Noise Makers (Air Horns, Bells, etc.) are allowed at our athletic events.
- We ask that all spectators do not obstruct the view of others by standing on the fence, sideline, etc. during a contest.
- With the exception of service animals (with proper documentation) we ask that all pets remain on the outside of our facilities
- The only vehicles allowed on our playing/practice fields are service vehicles (law enforcement, Emergency Medical Services, etc.).

**As spectators and supporters of *Sneed Middle School Athletics*, we also ask that you:**

- **Respect the rules of the contest.**
- **Respect the game officials and refrain from questioning their decisions or addressing them in a loud, disrespectful, or abusive manner.**
- **Cheer for your team in a positive, supportive manner.**
- **Place the emotional and physical well-being of the players ahead of any personal desire to win.**
- **Maintain control of your emotions, avoid the use of abusive language, profanity, and gestures of ill temper, and refrain at all times from making hostile or negative remarks about the opposing team.**
- **Respect all *Sneed Middle School* and Florence One Schools staff.**
- **Follow all building rules and regulations, respecting at all times the property of others.**
- **Leave school grounds in a timely fashion after the conclusion of a game.**
- **Demonstrate appropriate gestures of sportsmanship at the conclusion of a game, win or lose. Do not interact in a negative fashion with fans, players or coaches of the opposing team or game officials.**
- **Realize, accept, and practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability, but also on the sportsmanship, courtesy, and citizenship of its fans.**

## Responsibilities of a **Sneed Middle School** Student-Athlete

**Participation on an athletic team at Sneed Middle School is a PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT. Becoming and remaining a member of a team requires a student-athlete to accept all of the responsibilities included with that privilege.** Unlike recreational or intramural teams, equal playing time does not exist at this level. Coaches will play the players who are best suited to handle game conditions at a certain time, and who can best represent Sneed Middle School.

### Requirements for Participation:

- **Birth Certificate is on file at school/on file with the Director of Athletics**
- **All Academic Eligibility requirements have been satisfied**
- **All required forms have been uploaded and approved on the PlanetHS website (www.planeths.com)**
- **Participation in the tryout process, as well as other requirements by the coach for the team**

### Student-Athlete Conduct

**Team Rules-** Team rules are vital in establishing structure within an athletic program. They exist for the benefit of the entire team, and they must be adhered to at all times. All coaches at Sneed Middle School are expected to give their student-athletes a copy of their rules, regulations, and expectations before the beginning of their respective seasons. If a player is in violation of a team rule, the head coach will determine the appropriate disciplinary measure, to be approved by the Director of Athletics.

**Team Equipment-** All team equipment (i.e. uniforms) is the responsibility of the athlete to whom it was issued. It must be kept clean, and in good condition. Lost or damaged equipment will be a financial obligation to the athlete's parent. **All school-issued equipment will be returned immediately after the final contest of a team's season.**

**Quitting/Being Dismissed from a Team-** A student-athlete who quits or is dismissed from a team after the team has been officially selected will not be allowed to try out for another team until the end of that team's sports season.

- Example: If a student-athlete quits or is dismissed from a Fall Sports team (football or volleyball), he or she cannot participate in Winter Sports (basketball) activities until the football and volleyball seasons have been completed.

### **Community Service Projects**

Some primary goals for Sneed Middle School Athletics include exhibiting a positive image in our community, and teaching our student-athletes the importance of service. To reinforce these objectives, Sneed Middle School's student-athletes will be required to participate in community service projects during the school year. The projects will be chosen by the team's Head Coach, in cooperation with the Director of Athletics and school principal. Student-athletes will be properly supervised during these projects.

### **Discipline Policy**

Sneed Middle School's student-athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that exemplifies self-control and represents Sneed Middle School in a positive manner. If a student-athlete is disciplined in school, his or her standing on an athletics team may be in jeopardy. **If a student-athlete's discipline includes suspension from school, he or she will not be allowed to participate in any team-related functions (including practices and games).**

If a coach has to discipline a student-athlete, the degree of discipline will be in accordance with the coach's discipline policy.

### **Travel Policy- Away Contests**

**All student-athletes will ride a Florence One Schools-assigned bus to and from all athletic contests, unless the player is released to the custody of a parent after an away contest. For a player to be released to a parent, a request must be made in writing to the Director of Athletics AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF AN ATHLETIC CONTEST, stating the athlete's name, parent's name, and reason for the request. If there are any questions, please contact the Director of Athletics.**



## ***South Carolina High School League Eligibility Guidelines***

### **Age and Participation Requirements**

Students below the seventh grade **may not** participate in interscholastic athletics. Students in Grades 7 and 8 will not be permitted to participate on varsity interscholastic teams in football, wrestling, lacrosse, and soccer.

Any student who participates on a middle school team and is promoted to a high school junior varsity or varsity team **may not** return to middle school competition during the current school year in the same sport if he/she has participated in a contest at the advanced level.

**\*\*All participants must be in good academic standing with their respective schools in order to participate on any interscholastic team. \*\***

A student who becomes 15 years of age prior to July 1<sup>st</sup> of the upcoming school year **will not** be eligible to compete on an 8<sup>th</sup> grade and under interscholastic team in any athletic activities.



## **Sneed Middle School Athletics**

### **Uniform Issuance and Care Agreement**

As a member of an athletic team at **Sneed Middle School**, you agree to be responsible for the return of your school-issued team uniform, cleaned and in good repair, **within ONE WEEK of the conclusion of your team's season.**

You understand that you are responsible for the specific items of the uniform that are issued to you (jerseys, shorts, etc.) at the beginning of your team's season. Care and maintenance of uniforms is viewed as a serious responsibility at **Sneed Middle School** for our student-athletes. Guidelines for uniforms are as follows:

- Student-athletes must keep the uniform number they are assigned at the beginning of the season. **No uniforms may be changed without permission of the Head Coach.**
- Student-athletes must wash and care for their uniforms (practice AND game uniforms) after each practice/contest. **Wash colored uniforms separately from light uniforms. Turn uniforms INSIDE OUT before washing. Wash all uniforms in COLD water. NEVER place uniforms in the dryer, except on low heat.**
- **AT NO TIME may a student-athlete alter the original shape of form of a Sneed Middle School uniform.**

**NOTE:** Failure to properly care for uniforms and promptly return them after use will result in a replacement charge/fee.



I have read and understand **Sneed Middle School Athletics'** Uniform Issuance and Care Agreement.

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**Student-Athlete's Signature**

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**Date**

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**Parent's Signature**

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**Date**



I have read and understand the rules and policies that are included in the **Sneed Middle School Athletics** Parent/Athlete Athletic Policy Manual

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**Student-Athlete's Signature**

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**Date**

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**Parent's Signature**

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**Date**