

SVMS Athletic Handbook

South Vermillion Middle School provides athletic opportunities for all students. Full time (all day) students may participate in volleyball, football, basketball, track, swimming, cross country, wrestling, dance team, and cheerleading. The following rules apply to student athletes:

1. No Tobacco--Any athlete smoking, using smokeless tobacco or having any form of tobacco in his/her possession will be automatically dismissed from the athletic activity for the remainder of the season.
2. No Drinking/Drugs--Any athlete found with alcohol or drugs, in any form, in his/her possession or under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be automatically dismissed from the athletic activity for the remainder of the season.
3. South Vermillion Middle School athletes are representative of the school, the team, and the community and should conduct themselves accordingly. Any behavior detrimental to the image of South Vermillion will result in the following consequences:

1st Offense - One game suspension
2nd Offense - Two game suspension
3rd Offense - Dismissal from the team

Parents will be notified of each offense by phone or letter. Examples of detrimental behavior - use of foul language, inappropriate use of social media, not following coach's instructions repeatedly, unruly behavior on the bus, in school suspension, out of school suspension, etc. An athlete is expected to maintain a higher standard of conduct than the non-participant. An athlete is given the privilege of representing the school and community and must be a good representative.

4. Each member of any athletic team is responsible for attending each practice session and game. If you have joined an athletic team, you have made a commitment to yourself, the other team members, the school, and the coaches. If practice or game is missed, you must have a valid excuse or face the following consequences:

1st Unexcused Practice - One game suspension
2nd Unexcused Practice - Two game suspension
3rd Unexcused Practice - Dismissal from the team

Examples of valid excuses include doctor's appointments or previous commitment to another school activity, such as the play. Hair appointments and birthday parties are not considered valid excuses from practice.

Coaches must be notified directly by the athlete of a missed practice - not through word of another student. If an athlete has an ASD on the day of practice, he/she may face the consequences of being late to practice which may include extra running to make up for the time missed.

5. In order to participate in an athletic event, the athlete must have attended school all day the day of the contest. Exceptions will be made by the administration for doctor's appointments and other personal reasons. If a student is suspended out of school, he/she is not to attend a practice or game that same day.
6. On the day of a game, either home or away, team members will dress properly. This means that old jeans or other sloppy attire will not be tolerated. Remember, you are constantly representing your family, your school, and your community. Team shirts may be worn on the day of a ball game with the coach's approval.
7. Athletes are expected to ride the team bus to and from any away event. Exceptions to riding the bus home will be made only by approval of the coach or the principal and a written note from parents.
8. To be eligible to try out for a team, an athlete must have a current physical on file with the athletic director. Physicals are valid for the entire school year and one physical is all an athlete needs to have on file. Students will be allowed to participate in more than one sport in the same season (but no more than two) with the exception of 7th & 8th grade cheerleading and dance team. As these two groups perform at the same events, participation in both sports would be impossible. Athletes must attend ALL practices and games of their first "in season" sport before they may attend any practices or games of a second sport. For example, a boys' basketball player would not be eligible to participate in wrestling until the basketball season was complete. Serious consideration should be given to the time and commitment it takes before any student decides to participate in more than one sport in the same season. The exception to this rule would be the participation on the cheer squad and dance team. Once a student has joined a sports team, he/she may not quit to join another team during the same season.
9. An athlete may be eligible to join and to be a part of a team as long as they have a 1.67 grade point average on a 4.0 grading scale (C-average). Student grade checks will be administered on a bi-weekly basis. If their grade point averages drop below a 1.67, students will be placed on a grade improvement contract. Students will be suspended for two games if they are placed on a grade improvement contract. In order to remain eligible, students will have to meet the stipulations of the contract by the next grade check. Student-athletes, coaches, and administrators will collaborate with teachers in an effort to understand the academic and behavioral performance of every student-athlete.

10. School uniforms are provided by the school for most sports. Some sports may require a uniform or part of a uniform to be purchased by the athlete. Any part of a uniform that is purchased by the athlete is the property of the athlete. Any part of the uniform that is purchased by the school is the property of the school and shall be returned at completion of the athlete's season.
11. According to IHSAA policy, the principal may suspend from any school program anyone whose actions prove to be detrimental to the school.
12. Athletes of all sports will abide by these established guidelines. This includes boys' & girls' basketball, cheerleaders, cross country, dance team, football, swimming, track, volleyball, and wrestling.

CHEERLEADERS

1. Try-outs for 6th, 7th & 8th grade cheerleaders for the following school year will be held during each spring of the current school year. Cheer forms may be picked up in the front office once try-outs are announced.
2. The cheer coaches will determine the number of cheerleaders that will represent 6th, 7th and 8th grade.
3. Cheerleaders will be selected each year. There will be no automatic carry over from one year to the next.
4. Cheerleaders will ride a bus unless other arrangements have been made. Cheerleaders are also expected to ride the bus home. Exceptions will be made with the approval of the coach or principal and a written note from parents.
5. Cheerleaders will follow all guidelines as listed in the "Athletics" section of the student handbook along with the respective discipline consequences.
6. Cheerleaders will pay for their own uniforms.