

Seashore Middle Academy
Athletic Handbook
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Athletics Mission

Seashore Middle Academy athletics mission statement is to encourage more specific sport skills while participating in activities that will promote learning, teamwork, and self-esteem. Through these encounters, students will develop character skills, discipline, and confidence. SMA will recognize and nurture the individual interests and abilities of students to develop a life-long appreciation for an active lifestyle and the benefits of physical activity for the mind and body.

Athletic Guidelines

Required Documentation

Seashore Middle Academy mandates each student participating in an athletic sport will need to have the following items completed before ANY practice, scrimmage, or game:

1. UIL Pre-participation, Physical Evaluation consists of a medical history and physical examination
2. UIL Concussion Acknowledgement Form
3. UIL Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form
4. SMA Emergency Contact Sheet
5. Student/Parent/ Athlete Contract

*The Physical Examination will be completed annually and is valid for one year.

*The Physical Examination is valid for multiple sports.

Student Eligibility

Academic

1. **Must be passing all courses** with a 70 average prior to participation.
2. The 6 week grading period will determine further eligibility.
3. If athletes are not passing all courses with a 70 at the end of the 6 weeks they will lose eligibility. Passing means a minimum grade of 70 on all courses.
4. Students may regain eligibility if they are passing all courses at the 3-week progress report.

Team Composition

- SMA fields 7th and 8th grade teams in the following sports: volleyball, cross country, basketball, and track and field events. SMA will field the following number of athletes in basketball and volleyball: basketball—10 and Volleyball—12.

- Note: If fewer than the listed athletes report the first day of the season, then sixth graders will be notified the next day that they may try out. If they make the team they will be eligible to participate the entire year. If the number of seventh/eighth graders reporting the first day of the season meets or exceeds the number listed above, then sixth graders will not be used anytime during the entire season.
- SMA provides paid opportunity for 5th and 6th graders to participate in volleyball and basketball.

Practice

Each student participating in athletics will be required to participate in the scheduled practice sessions that will be scheduled during the week. If a student has a medical appointment that would result in missing practice, then, the athlete must inform the coach. If a practice is missed, this can result in less playing time during the next scheduled competition.

Practice clothing for females: Spandex shorts for volleyball will only be worn on the court for practice and games. Cover up shorts will need to worn over spandex in athletics' class and all other times. No tank tops will be allowed.

Competitions

Scrimmages, games, and tournaments are scheduled during the week and on Saturdays; students are required to participate in these activities.

Students must meet daily attendance requirements to participate in that day's activities.

Extenuating circumstances will need to be discussed with the coach prior to game time.

Uniforms

Students will be assigned a uniform for sports activities. In the event the coaching staff decides to issue uniforms for the season, the uniforms are to be returned in the same condition as issued. Athletes will have the following week after the season's conclusion to return issued uniform in its entirety. Failure of returning uniform will result in the payment of the uniform. Further, any uniform damaged will be replaced at the cost of the uniform.

Some athletic activities may need specialized sport related equipment such as volleyball (shorts and knee pads). These items will be expected to be purchased by the student athlete.

Conduct

Students of Seashore Middle Academy are expected to be respectful to other students, staff, parents, officials, opponents and volunteers. SMA views participation in athletic activities as a privilege, not a right. During all athletic endeavors such as practice, games, and tournaments, students are to maintain respect and follow the SMA student handbook's Code of Conduct. Any inappropriate conduct will be dealt with by the coach and if needed, the director. Results of discipline will vary depending on the offense and can include but is not limited to: loss of playing time, extra practice, and/or dismissal from the team.

Coaches conduct

By establishing an understanding between coaches and parents, both are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide a more positive experience for everyone. Parents have the right to know, and understand, the expectations placed on them and their children. Coaches have the right to know that if parents have a concern, they will discuss it with the coach at the appropriate time and place.

Communication parents should expect from their child's coach:

- 1) Coach's philosophy.
- 2) Expectations the coach has for your child, as well as other players on the team.
- 3) Locations and times of practices and contests.
- 4) Team requirements, i.e., fees, special equipment needed, school & team rules, off-season expectations.
- 5) Procedures that will be followed if your child becomes injured during participation.

Communication coaches expect from parents:

- 1) Concerns regarding their son or daughter expressed directly to the coach at the appropriate time and place.
- 2) Specific concerns in regard to the coach's philosophy and/or expectations.
- 3) Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance. It's important to understand there may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. These are the times discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with a coach:

- 1) The mental and physical treatment of your child.
- 2) What your child needs to do to improve.
- 3) Concerns about your child's behavior.
- 4) Your child is not playing as much as you hoped.

Issues NOT appropriate for discussion with your child's coach:

- 1) How much playing time each athlete is getting.
- 2) Team strategy.
- 3) Play calling.
- 4) Any situation that deals with other student-athletes.

Coaches make decisions based on what they believe is in the best interests of all students participating. As you can see from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach.

Parental Conduct

Parental conduct is an essential element of athletic activities. SMA encourages parents to be supportive of the student, team, coaches, and officials. Parents are encouraged to promote good time management skills in getting students to and from practice. At a competition, parents need to provide a positive atmosphere for student athletes. If parents should need to speak to the coaching staff, please contact the coach for an appointment. After a competition is not the appropriate time.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and parent. These are not discouraged, as it is important for each party to have a clear understanding of the other's position.