

SOCORRO CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS



ATHLETIC STUDENT HANDBOOK

2025-2026

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MISSION STATEMENT

Socorro Consolidated Schools recognize that extracurricular activities are integral to education. The Athletic Department, in cooperation with the community, aims to create a sports program that helps students reach their potential as individuals and team members, ensuring a positive educational experience. The mission of interscholastic athletics is to extend educational opportunities through athletic competition, promoting citizenship, sportsmanship, a healthy lifestyle, and positive life skills.

PHILOSOPHY

The administration and coaching staff of Socorro Consolidated Schools view interscholastic athletics as vital to the educational process, providing equal opportunities for all students. The philosophy is to offer a safe environment encouraging active participation in various activities. The goal is to foster positive experiences and guide student-athletes toward their full potential, focusing on character development, sportsmanship, and lifelong health. The ultimate goal is to value participation, strive for excellence, maintain a competitive spirit, and develop positive citizenship.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

Coursework

Students must be enrolled in and pass over 50% of a full course load for the current as well as the preceding semester grading period.

All courses included on the transcript count towards scholastic eligibility and must be credit-earning.

Concurrent enrollment in college courses is considered the equivalent of two semester half-credit courses.

Grade Point Average (GPA)

Students must have a 2.0 GPA, with no F's (below a 1), during the preceding semester grading period.

Students in grades 10-12 who fail to meet the standard may use the cumulative provision for eligibility if their cumulative GPA is 2.0 or above and they did not fail more than one course during the preceding semester.

Students must pass over 50% of a full semester course load to be eligible to use the cumulative provision.

Students who fail a concurrent enrollment college course may still utilize the cumulative provision if that is the only course failed and the student passes over 50% of a full course load.

A fall-semester clean slate is afforded to 7th graders and 9th graders who did not participate in high school sports as 8th graders.

Regaining Eligibility

Ineligible students may regain eligibility at the next 9-week grading period with a 2.0 GPA and no F's.

Summer School

Summer school is an extension of the spring semester.

Students who fail spring semester courses may replace those failed courses in the summer if they earn a passing grade in that exact class from an accredited program.

Summer school courses must be placed on the transcript prior to the first day of school.

Athletic Participation Paperwork

Before a student may be issued equipment or begin practice, the student must provide the coach proof of the following:

1. Positive physical examination report from a medical doctor.
2. Completion certificate for the NFHS Concussion course.
3. Agreement signed by a parent or legal guardian and the student certifying the understanding of athletic rules and agreement.
4. Proper insurance coverage.

Discipline

Any infractions by a student-athlete during school or while involved in a school-sponsored activity will be covered under the discipline policy as stated in the student handbook. Suspended (out-of-school) athletes will not be allowed to play or be present at practice facilities during practice hours. Students in in-school suspension can practice with the team but cannot play in any contests until the suspension is served.

NMAA Two-Strikes Rule

Any time an egregious act of unsportsmanlike conduct by a team participant, including a coach, occurs two or more times during the same season, at the same school, in the same activity, the team will be suspended from participation in that activity for the remainder of the season.

Also, any time an egregious act of unsportsmanlike conduct by a non-team participant (for example a parent or fan) occurs two or more times during the same season, at the same school, in the same activity, the non-team member, along with all school spectators will be suspended from attendance in that activity for the remainder of the season.

Use of Prohibited Substances

The possession or use of tobacco (in any form), alcoholic beverages, and/or illegal drugs is prohibited by state law and school policy while on or off school property. Abstinence from these substances is required of the student-athlete during a sport season or off-season program participation, whether on or off campus.

A student-athlete violating the rule of “prohibited substances” (use/possession of alcohol, steroids, tobacco, or drugs/paraphernalia) during the school year while in school or outside of school:

****First Offense (Category 1):** The student-athlete will be suspended from the current sport or upcoming sport (if not competing in a sport during the infraction) for 10 consecutive school days and at least 20% of their regular season games. The student-athlete may participate in practices but not in regular scheduled contests during the suspension.

****Second Offense (Category 2):** The student-athlete will be ineligible for 30 calendar days from the time of the offense. This period will carry over to the next school year. The athlete will lose their letter award and will not be allowed to participate in any award banquet as a team member. They will also have to sit out 50% of the games for the sport they are currently involved in, which can roll over to the next sport.

****Third Offense (Category 3):** The student-athlete will be ineligible for one year (365 days) from the time of the offense. The student will not be allowed to participate in any sport award banquet as a team member. This period will carry over to the next school year.

****Fourth Offense (Category 4):** Fourth and consecutive offenses will be subject to an additional Category 3 suspension.

****Self-Referral by Student-Athlete:** Student-athletes may seek information, guidance, counseling, and assessment regarding the use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs without punitive consequences.

- Referral is allowed once in a student’s high school career.
- Referral must be by the athlete or an immediate family member before a violation occurs.
- Referral cannot be used to avoid consequences once a code of conduct rule is violated.
- Referral must be made to a coach, athletic administrator, teacher, building administrator, guidance counselor, or the district drug and alcohol education coordinator.

Criminal Convictions

Criminal activities during a sports season off-campus and not connected with a school-sponsored activity will not be tolerated. Any criminal activity will result in suspension from the team.

Hazing

Hazing is not tolerated. Hazing is defined as harassing by exacting unnecessary, disagreeable, or degrading tasks or activities which may result in harm or bodily injury, or playing abusive and/or humiliating tricks on an individual by way of initiation.

Social Network/Media Policy

Student-athletes must refrain from posting statements, comments, photos, and other media that may be construed as slanderous, libelous, personal attacks, or disruptive to the educational and athletic process.

Student-athletes must refrain from posting statements, comments, photos, and other media that may be construed as harassment.

Student-athletes and athletic personnel must refrain from developing social networking relationships beyond professional communications.

Suspension/Removal from a Team

All suspension or removals from a team will be handled by the head coach in conjunction with the Athletic Director on a case-by-case basis. A student cut for disciplinary reasons or who quits is not eligible to try out for another sport during that season and can't attend off season practices until that sport season is over. Athletes not completing their season will not be eligible for athletic awards in that sport.

Coaches will follow all district guidelines outlined in the SHS/SMS Student Handbook.

Appeal Procedure

Student-athletes and/or their parents may appeal any decisions according to the SCS district policies.

GENERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Off-Season Conditioning Programs

Coaches may provide voluntary off-season programs to improve or maintain the physical condition of student-athletes according to NMAA rules. Participation is not mandatory and cannot be held against students.

8th Grade Participation at the High School Level

Eighth graders may participate on a high school team only with the Athletic Director's approval. Parents must meet with the AD to sign the NMAA 8th grade form before participation is allowed.

Squad Cuts

If a student is cut from one sport they are eligible to try out for another sport during that same season. If an athlete decides to try out for another sport during that season they must have approval of both coaches before try outs and not later than the first game of that sport.

Injury or Illness

Students under a physician's care must have a signed "return to participation" form from the physician before participating after an injury or illness.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all scheduled practices and meetings. If circumstances should arise whereby the student cannot attend a practice or meeting, the student shall notify the coach prior to the meeting or practice through personal contact or arrange for the notification by his/her parents through a written statement or telephone call. The coach must determine the validity of any missed meetings or practice. The time when students may return to participation is at the discretion of the coach.

In order for students to participate in an athletic contest, he/she must attend ALL classes that day(All day Thursday for weekend games) up to the departure time set by the coach. Unusual circumstances (Doctors appointments or school sponsored absences) will be handled on an individual basis with the principal or athletic director. Students must use the proper procedure and bring a note back.

A student-athlete who is truant or whose absence is unexcused **will not be allowed to participate in practice or any athletic contest on the day of the absence.** The principal, vice-principal, or athletic director may excuse any absence.(Please refer to high school students handbook pages 5-15 for more details)

Students must report to school the day following a game, regardless of return time, or face suspension from the next contest.

Loss of Equipment

Athletes are responsible for all equipment issued to them and must return it at the season's conclusion. Lost equipment must be paid for at full replacement value before the athlete can participate in another sport.

Dual Participation

Both coaches and the athletic director must agree before an athlete is allowed dual participation. To be eligible for post-season competition, athletes must compete in 25% of the scheduled meets for their high school team.

Individual Coaches Rules & Regulations

Coaches may establish additional rules with prior approval from the building administration/athletic director. These rules must be in writing and explained fully at the start of the season.

Transportation

Students must travel with their team on school-sponsored transportation to and from out-of-town contests. At the administration's discretion, students may continue to another destination with only their parents or legal guardians after completing the district-approved release form at least 24 hours prior to the activity.

Athlete Meals

The district provides one meal per day at an allowance of \$10.00 per athlete for events 60 or more miles from Socorro.

Practice Policies

All teams must conform to NMAA regulations regarding in-season and out-of-season limits. Practices should generally be limited to two hours. Sunday practices are not mandatory.

Ticket Prices for Athletic Events - Through GoFan

\$6.00 for Adults.

\$4.00 for Children 5 and older, Seniors 55+, and Students (with a picture ID).

\$65.00 Student, Child or Senior Season Pass (purchased in office)

\$95.00 Adult Season Pass (purchased in office)

\$180 Family Season Pass (2 Adults and their school enrolled children under 19)

Athletic Awards

Awards are given by coaches and outside organizations. The athletics department only provides pins and letters. An athlete will receive a varsity letter once during their high school career. After they have a letter they will receive a pin for each sport they letter in.

Fundraising

All fundraising must be approved by the Athletic Director and funds deposited within 24 hours into the correct account.

Athletic Booster Groups

The responsibility of providing necessary fund lines with the Board of Education and the Socorro Consolidated School Administration. Booster organizations' funds must be housed and spent out of each respective sports activity account at SHS.

Risk of Injury

Participation in interscholastic athletics includes a risk of injury, which can vary in severity.

NCAA Clearinghouse

Students wishing to participate in Division I or Division II athletics must be certified by the NCAA Initial-eligibility Clearinghouse. See the high school counseling office for more information.

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

1. I will represent the school in a positive manner.
2. I will be drug free.
3. I will be on time.
4. I will meet eligibility standards.
5. I will take care of my uniform and equipment.
6. I will follow the school dress code.
7. I will notify my coach when I need to miss a practice.
8. I will ride with the team to and away from events.
9. I will follow the Student Handbook rules.
10. I will not use profane language.
11. I will attend school unless I am sick or have an appointment.

Statement to be signed by student and parent/guardian:

I have received a copy of and have read the Athletic Handbook and Athletic Code of Conduct distributed by Socorro schools. I understand the guidelines and accept my personal responsibility for following all of them. I understand that this Code applies to my entire career as a Socorro student.

Student Signature

Date:

I acknowledge receiving the Athletic Code of Conduct distributed by the Socorro Consolidated Schools. I accept my responsibility for helping my child live up to the guidelines. I understand that this Code applies to myself for the time my child is a student at Socorro Consolidated Schools.

Parent Signature

Date: