



**Trailridge Middle School
Student Athlete Handbook
2026 - 2027**

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Introduction

Athletics and activities provide an opportunity for our students to build connections to our school, represent our school and community, and participate in an enriching activity sponsored by our school and district. This handbook represents what it means to be a student athlete at Trailridge Middle School. At Trailridge our mission states that we, as a Trailridge community, are committed to developing responsible, resilient, and respectful learners and leaders through varied opportunities to promote academic and social growth for all. We are also committed to the vision of “Be the Difference”. As student athletes, our students have the opportunity to display our mission and vision through their actions, teamwork, sportsmanship, and leadership.

Purpose

The purpose of athletics at Trailridge is to provide an extracurricular activity that promotes teamwork, participation, build skills, and creates a connection to our school and community. Through a variety of different teams, both competitive and instructional, our athletics program will develop well rounded student athletes that help fulfill the mission and vision of Trailridge Middle School.

Attendance

Being a student athlete is commitment. All student athletes are expected to attend scheduled practices, games, and team functions. If an athlete cannot attend a scheduled event then it is the student athlete responsibility to notify the coach as soon as possible. Student athletes are expected to follow the coaches expectations on how they want to be notified. Continued absences from team events may lead to but is not limited to consequences including removal from the program.

Attendance at school is mandatory for all student athletes to participate. If a student athlete is not present to all classes during the school day then they are not eligible for practice or games. If the student athlete has a doctor’s appointment or other appointments throughout the school day on game days then the absence needs to be approved by the Athletic Director for participation in games or events.

Academic Eligibility

Student athletes are a student first. This means that students are expected to stay in good academic standing in order to be eligible. A student athlete must meet the following criteria to be considered academically eligible:

1. A student must pass five (5) classes the prior quarter. This does not include seminar or mascot hour. Exceptions are made for 7th graders during the first quarter.
2. A student must sustain passing at least five (5) classes while participating in athletics. Coaches will actively monitor athletes' grades. If a student is made aware that they are not passing five classes then the student will have two weeks to improve grades or they will be considered academically ineligible until they are passing five (5) classes.
3. Students who have an F in any class at the weekly grade check will be required to attend Homework Club every day it is offered before reporting to practice until they have all passing grades.

Code of Conduct

Being a student athlete at Trailridge is a privilege. Each student athlete is expected to act with integrity at school, during practice, competition, and within the community. The student athlete does not only represent themselves, they represent their team, the school and the community. The student athlete must be in good standing with the team, coaches, and school at all times. All student-athletes will exhibit good sportsmanship to teachers, teammates, coaches, referees, opposing teams, and spectators. Your obligations also extend outside the classroom and the athletic field. You are a member of the community. As such, you should represent yourself and the team in a positive manner, respect authority, and encourage your teammates to do the same. If a student athlete does not meet the Code of Conduct at any time the coach, athletic director, or principal will administer consequences which could include, but are not limited to, suspension from activities or removal from the team.

Consequences

Although the purpose of athletics is for the student athletes to participate, consequences will be issued if a student athlete breaks the Code of Conduct of the SMSD or Trailridge Athletics program or breaks team rules issued by the coach. Any time consequences are issued, they will be a result of an investigation to ensure fairness and consistency.

Team Consequences

Each team will provide the student athlete with their team rules and expectations. If at any time a student athlete does not meet those expectations, a consequence will be issued by the head coach. Consequences can include but are not limited to: loss of playing time, not traveling with the team, short-term suspension from the team, removal from the team. The coach will work with the athletic director to determine appropriate consequences if student athletes are going to be removed from participation.

School Consequences

School consequences, including within classes and/or issued from a principal can affect the student's ability to participate. Team consequences may be issued due to not being in good standing with school. If a student receives In-School Suspension (ISS) for a majority of the school day then they are not eligible to play in games/events. Students in ISS can practice. Team consequences may be issued as well. Students in Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) are not eligible to participate in practice or games/events.

SMSD Drug/Alcohol Policy

Trailridge Middle School will follow the SMSD drug/alcohol policy.

DISTRICT CONTRACT REGARDING TOBACCO/ALCOHOL/DRUG AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION

The Shawnee Mission School District and Trailridge Middle School are committed to providing a wide variety of wholesome, well supervised extra-curricular activities. We encourage each and every student to become involved and participate as positive representatives of his/her school. The following agreement will apply to each student who represents his or her school in extra-curricular activities that are covered by the KSHSAA. Extra-curricular activities are a privilege – and students are allowed to participate in such activities as long as they comply with KSHSAA policies, District Policies, school rules, and rules determined by coaches or sponsors. Students participating in a Shawnee Mission School District extracurricular activity must have a signed Tobacco/Alcohol/Drug Abuse Agreement on file that will be signed at the start of each school year. Violations of this agreement are cumulative and do not start over each year. Board of Education policies JDDA and JCDA expressly prohibit the use, possession, transfer, or sale of any alcoholic or cereal malt beverage, restricted substances, and tobacco (including e-cigarettes) on school property or at school activities. This Agreement is an extension of the District's substance abuse policies and KSHSAA's policies concerning substance abuse. Students participating in Shawnee Mission High School extra-curricular activities are expressly prohibited from the use, possession, transfer, sale of any alcoholic or cereal malt beverage, restricted substances, or tobacco (including e-cigarettes) at all times. Violations may be appealed through school disciplinary processes. Violation of this agreement by any Shawnee Mission student, in addition to consequences set forth by board of education policies, will result in the following consequences listed below.

A. FIRST OFFENSE

Upon completion of investigation and determination that a violation was committed, the student-athlete, with their parent or guardian will be notified of the offense, and allowed the

opportunity to meet with the Head Coach, the Athletic Director, and the Principal to discuss the course of action.

The student-athlete may be allowed to remain on the team, attend practices and participate in competitions provided the Head Coach, Athletic Director and Principal agree that such action is appropriate and provided:

- Student athlete will enroll and attend a drug and alcohol education course.
- Follows all team rules as outlined by the Head Coach and Athletic Director.

B. SECOND OFFENSE

Upon completion of investigation and determination that a second violation was committed, the student-athlete, with their parent or guardian will be notified, and allowed the opportunity to meet with the Coach, the Athletic Director, and the Principal to discuss the course of action.

The student-athlete shall be deemed to lose the privilege of participating in competitions for 50% of the current or nearest upcoming season in which they participate. The student athlete shall enroll in and satisfactorily complete a substance abuse counseling program before being allowed to return to the team. Additional and appropriate consequences shall be determined by the Coach, Athletic Director, and Principal.

C. SUBSEQUENT OFFENSES

Upon completion of investigation and determination, the student-athlete with their parent or guardian will be notified of the offense. A conference including the student athlete, their parent/guardian, the Coach, Athletic Director, and Principal shall be conducted. If verification is found to be sufficient by school administration, the student shall lose his or her privileges to participate in extracurricular activities for one calendar year after the completion of the due process hearing. The Coach, Athletic Director, and Principal will confer with the Director of Student Activities and Athletics on all agreed upon consequences or actions prior to enforcement.

Travel

Student athletes are expected to travel to and from games with the team using provided busing. If a student needs to leave games/events early then the student athlete's parents/guardians are expected to notify the coach via email before 3:00PM on the day of the game. This provides an opportunity for coaches to compile a travel list to ensure the safety of all student athletes.

Uniforms and Equipment

The student athletes are responsible for the care and management of every item that is checked out to them. Uniforms should be cleaned immediately following every game, and the standards set out by the uniform manufacturer should be followed to insure the life of the uniform. The student athlete will be charged the full amount for any item returned to the program in a worse manner than it was given, as well as any item that was checked out and not returned.

Some programs require specific uniform pieces to be purchased. Coaches will provide that information to athletes.

Miscellaneous

In every season, a situation may come up that is not addressed by our team rules or this handbook. In the event that a situation like this occurs, the coaching staff will investigate the situation in a timely manner, confer with the Athletic Director, and together determine the best course of action and/or consequence as quickly as possible. School policy, team policy, and KSHSAA policy will be considered in the final decision.