



Student Athlete and Parent Handbook

Fox Creek High School
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The purpose of a student athlete and parent handbook is to orient new student athletes and parents of the policies and codes of conduct for all sports, and provide a refresher to returning students and parents to include any revisions to policies and codes, and required acknowledgements.

At a minimum your handbook should contain the following items:

- (1) Going out for a sport process
- (2) Basic eligibility rules
- (3) Expectations of student athletes
- (4) Expectations of parents
- (5) Consequences for unethical behavior

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Acknowledgement- to be signed and returned to athletic department

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Forms- to be signed and returned to athletic department

1. History and Physical, completed and signed by parent and physician
2. Concussion Form
3. Parent Permission and Acknowledgement Form
4. Social Media Form
5. Player Information Sheet
6. Athletic Policy

Section 1 - Welcome

1.1 FCHS Mission Statement

Our mission at Fox Creek High School is to graduate students who will have a positive impact on their community. Our goal is to create an interconnected learning environment that combines a demanding college-preparatory education with the many resources of the CSRA. This environment includes the government, performing arts, industry, the medical community, and sports. We accomplish our goal by establishing academic excellence, providing a moral focus, and obtaining parental involvement.

1.2 FCHS Vision Statement

Fox Creek High School will be a major provider of secondary education in Edgefield. As an educational institution responsible for the total development of students, our goal is to enable students to become totally, seamlessly integrated with the local, national, and global community. Challenges of rapid global transformation mandate that the students of Fox Creek High School be equipped with knowledge, insight, and flexibility. Fox Creek High School understands this challenge and strives to empower the whole student to experience present and future success, and to beneficially impact the changing world.

Fox Creek High School is a member of the South Carolina Public Charter School District.

Fox Creek High School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, or immigrant status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle the nondiscrimination policies: For questions pertaining to Section 504 contact the Director of Student Services, questions pertaining to Title IX contact the Principal of the school at 165 Shortcut Rd. North Augusta, SC 29860, (803) 613-9435

1.3 Athletic Program Philosophy

It is through the participation in athletic centered activities that students will develop values and the personal skills required for highly functional societal interactions. Fox Creek High School and The Fox Creek High School Athletic Department is dedicated to teaching these life skills to our athletes so they may promote themselves as future leaders in both athletic and social environments, maintaining the highest standards of attitude, achievement and sportsmanship.

Section 2 - Eligibility

2.1 Fall Sports

- Cross Country
- Football
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Volleyball

2.2 Winter Sports

- Basketball

2.3 Spring Sports

- Golf
- Baseball
- Softball
- Soccer

2.4 Going out for a sport- Process

- You must pass a physical examination (valid dates of 4/1 -3/31 of the current academic school year)
- Parent/guardian must complete and sign a Physical and History Form
- You must provide proof of health insurance
- You must read, understand and sign the current year Athletic Policy
- You and you parent must sign the Permission and Acknowledgement of Risk Form
- You must be academically eligible
- You must have residential eligibility
- You and your parent MUST attend the Athlete and Parent Meeting
- You and your parent/guardian must sign the Student Athlete and Parent Handbook

2.5 Try Outs

- Student Athletes will have a minimum 1-day try out period from the first day tryouts are held. If a student misses the tryout period he/she will miss the opportunity to try out. The exceptions to this are as follows:
 - Athletes coming from a sport which has not concluded will have three practice days from the day of the last game to try out.

- Athletes may prearrange with a coach to extend the try out period. This must occur in advance and is solely at the discretion of the coach.

2.6 Academic Eligibility

A student must be scholastically eligible to compete in any athletic contest during that season of sport. If the student becomes academically eligible mid-season, the student is athletically eligible immediately. The Varsity head coach of each respective sport and/or Athletic Director can determine whether not to:

- Allow a student athlete to practice with the team while attempting to gain academic eligibility
- Allow a student to join a team mid-season after becoming academically eligible

In order to be academically eligible, a student athlete must meet the following SCHSL requirements:

- The student must be enrolled at the school for which they wish to participate in athletics
- The student must pass 5 of 7 classes per semester
- The student must be maintaining a minimum progress toward meeting the high school graduation requirements as prescribed by the governing board
- The student has maintained during the previous grading period a minimum of a 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale in all enrolled courses

Section 3 - Penalties

3.1 Penalty for Provision of False Information

- If an athlete participates (plays or suits up) in a game while being ineligible, the school must forfeit the game
- If it is discovered that persons associated with the student or the school (coach, teachers, parents, friends, etc) provided false information in order to fraudulently gain favorable eligibility status for a student, that student is subject to immediate ineligibility for competition at any school at any level in any sport for a period up to 12 months from the determination that false information was provided whether the student was aware of the fraudulent information or not

3.2 Student Participation-Conduct Penalty

- Student participation in athletic contests is a privilege. Student athletes are expected to conduct themselves in an exemplary manner at all times. During the participation in all SCHSL competition, a student who is ejected or disqualified from participating in the remainder of said contest will be ineligible for the team's next contest
- Any student athlete who physically assaults a game or event official (referee, umpire, or any other official assigned to interpret or enforce the rules of competition) shall be banned from any athletic involvement for the remainder of the current school year. The rule is violated even if no contact is made with the official. All that is required is the "attempt"
- Any student who has falsified their name or address in order to achieve eligibility will be ineligible in all interscholastic athletic competition for a period of one year from the date of the infraction is verified

Section 4 - Injuries and Concussions

Participating in competitive athletics may result in severe injury, including paralysis or death. While changes in rules, improved conditioning programs, modern equipment, and medical coverage have reduced these risks, it is impossible to completely eliminate such incidents from occurring. Players can reduce the chance of injury by obeying all safety rules in their sport, reporting all injuries to their coaches, following a proper conditioning program and inspecting equipment daily.

- Procedure if you are injured: Report all injuries immediately to your coach or Athletic Director. The coach will file an Injury Report with the Athletic Department.
- Removal from PE class: any athlete requesting to be removed from PE activity during the school day due to an injury will be removed from athletic activity for that day or time period as determined by the medical staff or athletic trainer.
- Concussions/Head injuries: Any student athlete suspected of sustaining a possible concussion or head injury during a practice or game will be removed from that day's activity for the remainder of the day. Any athlete removed for this reason must receive a written note from a medical doctor trained in the management of concussion before returning to practice. Before an athlete can start the season and begin practice in a

sport a concussion information sheet must be signed and returned to the school by the athlete or the parent or guardian.

Section 5 - Expectations of Student Athletes

Along with the privilege of competing for and representing Fox Creek High School and the SCHSL comes responsibilities and expectations. Athletes are held to a higher standard because of their high visibility in local media and social media. They represent their peers, teachers and community and must work hard to maintain their reputation and earn the respect of their community and supporters.

5.1 Participation

- Athletics are voluntary. Participation is not required for graduation, thus being on a sports team is not a right but a privilege that is earned. Student athletes are expected to maintain the established standards as stated in the Fox Creek student handbook both on and off the field.

5.2 Athletics as part of the Educational Program

- Athletics are a part of the Educational Program that is provided to students. Students are in school to learn, and therefore academics come first. Maintaining academic eligibility is the student's responsibility, not the coaches, teachers or parents. Eligibility can also be lost due to poor attendance.

5.3 Sportsmanship

- Positive sportsmanship is an expectation of the Fox Creek Athletic Program. Teams are expected to "play harder" than our opponents, but are also expected to play within the rules of the sport and the boundaries of clean and fair play.

5.4 Being a part of the team

- Student athletes learn many skills to play their chosen sport, but the most important skill to be acquired is teamwork. To be successful, every member of a team must work together to make the whole greater than the

sum of their parts. Sacrifice, loyalty, common goals, working with others, and sharing responsibility are all important components of teamwork.

5.5 Be ready to play

- Student athletes are expected to arrive to practices and contests on time, be focused and ready to learn. In addition, they are expected to be prepared both mentally and physically for the season by training in the preseason.

5.6 Respect

- The student athlete is expected to demonstrate respect for coaches, teachers, officials, spectators, teammates, school facilities, equipment and opponents at all times.

5.7 Dedication

- A student athlete must be willing to dedicate him/herself to their sport. The athlete should be aware that nothing worthwhile will be accomplished without hard work and a sincere desire to excel and succeed. This commitment is expected in the off-season as well as during the season.

5.8 Substance Abuse and Inappropriate Activity

Student Athletes are expected not to use, possess or sell alcohol, controlled substances (drugs) or tobacco at any time during the school year, including after school hours and weekends. This applies to when the athlete is at school or off campus, verified by a school district employee or law enforcement official. The athlete will be subject to the penalties listed below. Additionally, the same penalties will be enforced for any physical altercations in which the student athlete may be involved.

- First Offense: The student will be removed from the athletic team for the remainder of the season and may not participate in another sport until the current season ends, which includes post-season games or tournaments. Awards earned will be forfeited. In addition, the athlete will be subject to enforcement of the Fox Creek discipline code, which involves suspension for up to 5 days and a 45-day social probation. A student on social

probation may not participate in or attend any co-curricular events. An athlete will receive only one first offense.

- Repeat Offense: A repeat substance abuse offense will result in the elimination of all sports for the remainder of the school year, or for the next season of sport, whichever is greater. An athlete will receive only one first offense. All other offenses will be considered repeat offenses during the athlete's entire high school career.

5.9 Performance Enhancing Drugs (PEDs)

Fox Creek High School and the SCHSL does not approve of the use of PEDs of any form. PEDs can cause a variety of health problems, including but not limited to heart disease, liver disorders and high blood pressure.

5.10 Social Networking Guidelines

In an effort to maintain a safe school environment, lawful online conduct, good sportsmanship, and to deter the need to enforce discipline, Fox Creek High School recommends the following guidelines as best practices for the use of social media by all students.

- Be aware that privacy settings are not foolproof. Students are encouraged to use privacy settings on social media sites. However, students should be aware privacy settings are not foolproof. It is best to assume that anything posted on social media may be seen by your parents, teachers and strangers.
- Avoid posting confidential information. Posting information such as your date of birth, address, phone number, social security number, banking information, etc. is NOT recommended. Once it is posted, it becomes the property of the social media site being used.
- Avoid unprofessional public profiles. Any information you put on social media sites is considered public information and may be viewed by members of the public. Potential, current and future employers as well as college admissions recruiters may access this information.
- Avoid posting illegal activities. Fox Creek High School students should avoid incriminating photos or statements depicting violence, hazing, sexual harassment, vandalism, stalking, underage drinking, selling, possessing or using controlled substances. These photos become the property of the social media site and may be used against you in the future.

- Avoid bullying. Students should carefully consider how their communications will impact others, and should avoid communications/posts that make a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.

Section 6 - Consequences for Unethical Behavior

The following outlines the obvious areas of personal ethics along with the consequences for unethical behavior.

- Any athlete found guilty of stealing or defacing school or personal property will be dismissed from the team.
- Profane or obscene language, or any act of vulgarity is not acceptable. Violators will be disciplined by the coach and may also face school disciplinary action.
- Athletes are expected to treat their opponent with respect before, during and after competition. Athletes showing poor sportsmanship towards opponents or officials will be disciplined by the coach and may face school disciplinary action.
- Athletes are expected to attend all classes, be on time, turn in their assignments on time, seek help from the teacher when necessary, have a positive attitude toward their peers and teachers, and be a good citizen. Failure to do so will result in discipline from the coach.
- An athlete must be in class for four full periods to practice or play in a game that day. If an athlete is not in four full periods of class, he/she becomes ineligible to compete or practice that day. The athletic director may handle special circumstances.
- An athlete who is suspended from school may not participate in practices or games for the duration of the suspension, including holidays, weekends and breaks.
- Attendance at practice, scrimmages, team meetings, and games is required. Absences not excused by the coach in advance may result in disciplinary action and possible removal from the team.
- Athletes found cheating in the classroom or in other events will be disciplined by the coach and may face school disciplinary action.

Section 7-Expectations of Parents

Parents play an integral part in student athlete participation. Parents are expected to present themselves as role models and support their students and Fox Creek High School by using the following guidelines:

- Encourage participation. Allow the student to select the sport based on his/her perceived ability and interest. Provide a pressure free environment regarding scholarship expectations.
- Be supportive of your athlete by seeing that his/her needs are met. See that he/she has the right equipment. Attend as many of your athlete's contests as possible.
- Emphasize that academics always come first.
- Emphasize perseverance, not quitting, as the best way to solve a problem.
- Assist the student to structure time wisely so that athletics do not interfere with academics.
- Use athletics as a way to teach our students how to interact with other people during emotional situations. Help them to understand that athletic ability varies with body maturity and that effort is just as important, if not more important, than natural ability.
- Be supportive of the coaching staff. Go to all meetings requested by the coaches. Being on a successful team is important to your athlete. Support the coach's preparation plan. Talk to your athlete frequently about how things are going with his/her sport.
- During the season, take into consideration practice and games when planning family events.
- Understand the needs of a particular sport. Some sports require more equipment while some take more time.
- Model positive behavior.

Acknowledgement of Receipt for Student Athlete Handbook

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Student Athlete Handbook. I understand that I am responsible for reading the information contained in the Handbook.

I understand that the Handbook is intended to provide me with a general overview of the Fox Creek High School athletic guidelines.

(Signature of Student)

(Date)

(Signature of Parent)