

# Parent Manual



## Introduction

This guide has been prepared to inform athletes and parents about the Soda Springs High School athletic programs. In establishing this guide, we have attempted to include problems and circumstances that normally occur in the life of an athlete in the Soda Springs High School system. We also have attempted to answer questions which a parent or an athlete might have about our programs

### **“PARTICIPATING IN A SPORT OR ACTIVITY IS A PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT”**

## Philosophy

The opportunity to participate in a wide variety of student-selected activities is a vital part of a student's educational experience. Athletes learn valuable lessons in sportsmanship, teamwork, competition and responsibility. They learn how to set goals and achieve great success, but also how to deal with, and rebound from disappointing setbacks. Such participation is a privilege that carries with it a responsibility to teammates, the school and the community.

## General Information

**Phone:** 547-4308  
**Fax:** 547-3327  
**Address:** 151 East 200 South  
Soda Springs Idaho 83276

## COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES

### **PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIP**

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the others and provide greater benefit to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

### **COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD'S COACH**

1. Philosophy of the coach.

2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the squad.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e., fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
5. Procedure should your child be injured during participation.
6. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation.

### **COMMUNICATIONS COACHES EXPECT FROM PARENTS**

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concern in regard to a coach's expectations.

### **APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES**

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe is best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things must be left to the discretion of the coach.

### **ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES**

1. Playing time.
2. Team strategy.
3. Play calling.
4. Other student-athletes.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the others position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

1. Have Athlete Discuss Concern with their coach.
2. If the problem is still not resolved then contact the coach through the school, please do not call coaches at home.
3. If you have trouble reaching the coach please call the High School Office and we will set up an appointment for you.
4. Coaches should not talk to parents/guardians before or after practices or a contest. These can be emotional times for parents and coaches. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

### **Responsibilities of an Athlete at Soda Springs High School**

1. All athletes must adhere to the Idaho High School Association (IHSAA) Constitution and by-laws. Copies of the IHSAA by-laws are available on-line at [www.idhsaa.org](http://www.idhsaa.org).

2. Any student at Soda Springs High School who is involved in athletics is expected to maintain a 2.0 G.P.A. during their season/s of participation. If at any time during a season a student does not have a 2.0 G.P.A. for their current courses, as reported to the Athletic Director by PowerSchool, he/she will be declared ineligible. Any student who is declared "ineligible" may continue to participate in practice, but will not be allowed to participate in any contests. The period of ineligibility runs from Tuesday through Tuesday. Athletes who are consistently ineligible may be removed from the team.

### **3. High School Eligibility – Trimester**

Athletes are required by the IHSAA to pass 5 classes per grading period. Failure to achieve this level of academic standing will result in the athlete being

declared ineligible for the next trimester. During this time the student cannot practice with the team or participate in contests.

### **4. Physicals, Insurance waivers, Medical release and Participation Fees\***

Before an athlete can tryout, practice or participate in any activity they must have a physical and medical release form on file with the Athletic Director.

A. Physical Examination: Students participating in athletics at SSHS must have a physical examination by a licensed physician.

B. Participation Fees: The current fee is \$100 per sport and must be paid before an athlete can participate in a contest.

If a student is "Cut" the fee will be refunded. It will not be refunded if a student "quits" a team

### **5. Attendance**

Athletes are expected to attend all classes in their schedule on the day of a contest and the day following a contest. Absences following contests are not acceptable and may result in disciplinary measures, including suspension from participation.

### **Responsibilities of a Parent of an Athlete at Soda Springs High School**

Your child's academic success is the number one priority of the school district. Our coaching staff will assist you in monitoring your child's academic progress. Obviously a coach cannot effectively monitor all the athletes on a team effectively. The coaching staff can assist you by:

1. Offering a study table for all athletes on the eligibility list.
2. Send out weekly progress reports to specific teachers .
3. Speak directly to teachers concerning your child's progress.

Ultimately it is your job as a parent to closely monitor your child's progress. The coaching staff will assist in any way possible including suspending your child for lack of sufficient progress. Most athletes struggle from poor time management and lack of motivation, not a lack of academic talent.

## LEVELS OF PLAY

Soda Springs High School athletics are not an intramural program. They are an interscholastic program. Playing is a privilege, not a right. No athlete at any level is guaranteed any playing time.

### 1. Freshmen / Sophomore level:

Coaches are encouraged to play as many players as possible. The coaches will focus on the development of fundamentals and will teach a skeleton of the varsity system/philosophy to the athletes. The focus of this level is the development and preparation of athletes for the varsity level.

### 2. Varsity Level:

At the varsity level the most talented athletes in the program (freshmen, sophomore, junior, senior) will play in the games/contests. No individual is guaranteed any playing time. The focus at this level is to attempt to win games/contests.

## ROLES IN A SSHS PROGRAM

There are four roles in the Soda Springs High School Athletic Program. It is important that these roles do not get confused, as it will limit the athlete's opportunities for success. These roles are:

1. **Athletes**- the individuals who wear the uniforms and participate in the contests and games.
2. **Coaches**- the professionals who implement a well articulated philosophy and direct the team.
3. **Officials**- the professionals who wear a striped shirt and administer the contests.
4. **Parents**- the athletes biggest fans and supporters who come to contests and cheer positively.

In order for our teams to have the greatest opportunity for success, these roles must never become confused. Players will not be allowed to officiate, parents are not allowed to coach and coaches may not just come to games and cheer. One cannot and will not be allowed to perform the others role.

## WHAT SSHS EXPECTS FROM PARENTS

- A. A parent who is supportive of the Athlete/Program/School.
- B. A parent who follows chain of command in communication.
- C. A parent who demonstrates and encourages good sportsmanship.
- D. A parent who demonstrates positive behavior as a fan.
- E. A Parent who will attend their son and or daughters sporting events.
- F. A parent who will provide a positive home environment.
- G. A parent who will pick their child up on time.

Parents of a SSHS athlete are expected to show positive sportsmanship at all times. As a parent, if you demonstrate behavior that does not reflect positively on Soda Springs High School, it could result in decreased playing time for your son or daughter. If your poor sportsmanship continues, your son or daughter will be released from the team. If you are asked to leave the activity due to poor sportsmanship, you may or may not be allowed to attend another contest during that athletic season or beyond.

Parents are not allowed to negatively confront a referee, opposing team member, parent or coach before, during, or after an activity.

Soda Springs School District #150 and Soda Springs High School reserve the right to deny admission to or to eject any fan that is determined by the administration or their designated representative to be, or to have been, disruptive to the activities of the District's or School's representative teams and organizations.