



A Parent's Guide to Schoolcraft Athletics

“An Extension of the Classroom”



High School Sports

Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country
Football, Golf, Softball, Tennis
Track, Volleyball, Wrestling
Sideline/Competitive Cheer

Middle School Sports

Basketball, Cross Country, Football
Track, Volleyball, Wrestling
Sideline/Competitive Cheer

Athletic Philosophy

The Michigan High School Athletic Association refers to the experience that a student receives from participating in high school athletics as “an extension of the classroom”. The Schoolcraft Athletic Department couldn't agree more with that concept.

At Schoolcraft, we truly believe that experience derived from participating in athletics only enriches the academic skills acquired during the school day. The qualities of cooperation, teamwork, sacrifice, and dedication are among the most important that athletic participation offers.

The greatest source of pride in Schoolcraft athletics is our Student-athletes.

Our participation rate is outstanding and studies indicate that our student-athletes have the unique ability to excel in both academics and athletics. A high level of sportsmanship is maintained by our students and we only feel good about wins on the score-board if our academic and sportsmanship performances supersede them.

The athletic department will continue to develop and improve programs which enhance our students' athletic education without compromising our high standards of academics and integrity.

Our goal is that each and every athlete will be someone of whom the entire community can be very proud.

Objectives of Participation

A. Tangible Goals and Objectives

The student-athlete shall:

1. Increase fundamental skills and techniques.
2. Increase knowledge of the rules of the sport.
3. Remain academically eligible.
4. Attend every practice, contest or function that is a requirement for each team member.

B. Intangible Goals and Objectives

The student-athlete shall:

1. Prioritize team over individual.
2. Be totally committed to the team.
3. Exhibit exemplary sportsmanship at all times.
4. Be accountable to the team.
5. Be able to conform to team guidelines and rules.
6. Have respect for coaches, officials, and opponents.
7. Be able to learn from constructive criticism.
8. Identify and work hard to fulfill a role on the team.
9. Have the ability to handle success and adversity with dignity.
10. Understand the importance and relationship between athletics and academics.
11. Understand that athletic participation is earned through commitment and work ethic.
12. Develop leadership skills and qualities.

We firmly believe that striving to meet these goals and objectives will enable all student-athletes to experience cognitive and affective growth that will accompany them into their adult lives.

PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIP

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each role, we are able to communicate the benefit of extra-curricular activities to children. As parents, when your children become involved in the athletic program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communications from the coach.

COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR SON/DAUGHTER'S COACH

As a parent, you should expect to receive the following information from the coach:

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players.
3. Locations and times of all practices and con- tests.
4. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning, etc.
5. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation.

COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM PARENTS

The coach of your child's sport expects to receive the following communications from parents:

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any medical appointments well in advance if possible.
3. Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your child becomes involved in athletic programs at Schoolcraft Community Schools, he or she will experience some of the most rewarding moments of his or her life. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

It is inappropriate to discuss the following topics with coaches:

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

If You Have A Concern To Discuss With A Coach. This is The Procedure You Should Follow

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be used to help promote a resolution of the issue:

1. Call to set up an appointment with the coach. The Schoolcraft High School Office telephone number is 488 7350.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director at 488 7350. A meeting will be set up for you.
3. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.
4. Use the 24-hour rule-wait to discuss a situation with a coach until 24 hours after the contest or practice.

What can a parent do if the meeting with the Coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

1. Call and set up an appointment to meet With the Athletic Director at 488 7350 to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined if the situation is still unresolved.

FREQUENTLY ASKED ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT QUESTIONS

1. Does my child need to have a physical Examination to be eligible to participate in athletics?

Yes! The Michigan High School Athletic Association mandates that all athletes must have a physical examination after April 15 on file to be eligible to participate in the upcoming year. The physical is good for the entire athletic year. Schoolcraft offers athletic physicals for a nominal price once a year in May or June

2. If my child is absent from school can they practice or participate in athletics on the same day?

If the student misses any part of the school day they may not practice or participate in athletics that day unless they are attending a school related function or have been pre-excused by a parent or guardian.

3. How can I help make my child's experience in athletics a positive one?

Support and communication are the keys. Support your son or daughter with encouragement and by your attendance at events and communicate positively with them and their coaches about all aspects of their athletic experience.

4. When should I pick my child up after an away athletic contest?

Length of athletic contests vary but coaches should be able to estimate return times with some degree of accuracy if you consult them.