

ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY:

The purpose of athletics at Sierra Middle School is to give all middle school students the opportunity to participate in team and individual sports. We believe that students can develop valuable lifelong skills in teamwork, leadership, good sportsmanship, self-discipline, and self-confidence through our athletic program.

TO ALL ATHLETES, AND PARENT/GUARDIANS OF ATHLETES:

As we approach the upcoming year of various athletic programs, Sierra Middle School would like to keep its outstanding reputation as one of the most dedicated, well behaved, and good sportsmanlike conduct schools of the district.

We have collaborated, as coaches and administrators, concerning the rules of conduct to fit all athletic programs. This gives the athlete and parents a good understanding of the expectations required within each program. These rules of conduct will remain consistent throughout the 2007-2008 school year.

ATHLETIC CONDUCT:

At Sierra Middle School we expect students who are participating in athletics to bring credit to our school. Their appearance, conduct, and general deportment in the community, school, and classroom should be exemplary.

Students participating in athletics must abide by the following rules:

1. The student/athlete must:
 - a. not possess or drink intoxicating or alcoholic beverages;
 - b. not possess or smoke or use any form of tobacco;
 - c. not possess or be involved in the use of distribution of any narcotic;
 - d. be willing to submit to rules of conduct and appearance prescribed by the coach when representing the school;
 - e. inform the head coach and the athletic secretary that he/she intends to drop or quit any sport; return all uniforms and equipment issued.
2. A student/athlete who violates any or all of the above rules is subject to suspension or expulsion from participation in athletic activities. Procedures shall be the same as those for suspension or expulsion of pupils from school.

The following are the requirements for academic eligibility taken from the *Middle School Athletic Handbook*, p. A6.

1. One failing grade will make an athlete ineligible for one week (Monday through Saturday).

Coaches and/or parents may adopt a stricter policy but may not be more lenient. The principal or assistant principal shall have the authority to make individual student recommendations for Special Education or At-Risk students.

2. Weekly eligibility reports will be generated at the end of the first week of practice.

3. Ineligible students will not be permitted to participate in interscholastic contests. They will be permitted to practice.
4. The Principal or Assistant Principal shall have the authority to declare a student ineligible for participating in athletic activities based on inappropriate behavior.
5. The Middle School programs operate under a "NO CUT" policy. A student will not be dropped due to skill level. A student can be dropped for irregular attendance, discipline, or academic reasons. Due to course limitations, golf may be an exception to the "no cut" policy.
6. Students must attend all scheduled school practices for all sports in order to participate in contests.
7. 7th graders can play on 7th grade teams and 8th graders can play on 8th grade teams only.