

SMS Athletic Policies

SMS Bulldogs Philosophy

The Spotsylvania Middle School Coaching Staff is honored to be a part of the Bulldog family this season. We, the coaching staff, are striving to build a program that sets high standards of excellence for our student-athletes. Our standards of excellence are not just held to the parameters of a field or court; we expect our players and other personnel to excel in the classroom and community. Developing a well rounded student-athlete is our primary goal.

The high standards of excellence expected by Bulldog athletes are:

- Achieving high academic marks
- Developing and displaying good sportsmanship at ALL times
- Demonstrating respect and good character on and off the field/court.

SMS Bulldogs Rules and Regulations

1. **Academic Standards:** Players must adhere to Spotsylvania County Public Schools and/or coaching staff's academic standards. Player's grades and conduct will be checked periodically during the course of the season. **If any player has a class average less than 70 (C), he/she could be suspended from all practices and games until the grade is a 70 (C) or higher.**
2. **Coaches' Standard:** A student-athlete should be just that; academics are a priority over athletics! The coaching staff will expect the same effort in the classroom as on the field/court. **There are no excuses for late homework, class work or projects unless there is a family or medical emergency.** If a student is struggling with behavior or academic concerns in the classroom, the Head Coach will determine a course of action.
 - Daily attendance will be kept at practice. If a player misses a practice without prior approval from the Head Coach, disciplinary action can be taken.
 - Parent or Player are responsible for notifying the Head Coach of an absence well in advance unless the student becomes sick while at school or get's signed out early for family emergency.
 - **Conduct: Anyone wearing the Bulldog uniform represents something greater than themselves.** Players should conduct themselves in a positive manner at **ALL TIMES**. A player's **CONDUCT** (actions, comments, and attitude) is a reflection upon the coaches and school. Poor representation of any individual player will be grounds for disciplinary action.
3. **Sportsmanship** will be displayed by coaches, players, parents, and all other spectators. Coaches will coach and players will play to the best of their abilities. We ask parents to support all game participants, including the officials and the opposing team coaches and players. **Sportsmanship should be displayed on and off the field during games and practices.**
4. **Attendance** is required in school in order to participate in practice or a game. A player must be in school for three full (3) periods in order to play.

5. Practices and Games:

- Players need to be ON TIME and PREPARED for all games, practices and bus departures. Any unexcused practice will affect playing time.
- **Practices are held immediately after school; 3 to 5 pm. Students should have their own ride home from practices or games by 5:45pm.**
- Games begin at 4pm at all county middle schools with the **EXCEPTION of Wrestling (4:30 start time).**

6. Transportation:

- Parents are responsible for picking up their child **5:00 and 5:45**
- Parents are allowed to pick up child from AWAY games; must sign them out with head coach.

7. Final Team Roster Notification:

Team rosters will be posted ONLINE on the Athletic Link on the final day of tryouts per sport season. The final rosters per sport should be viewable shortly after 8:30 pm (per the website manager).

Respectfully, please allow each individual to view the website on their own time. Please DO NOT take pictures of any roster and post them to ANY social media sites.

GO Bulldogs!!!