

Athletic/Activity Handbook



Silver High School &
La Plata Middle School

SECTION I – PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of the Silver Consolidated School District ("District") is that all students will be provided with a wide range of opportunities for development beyond the academic program. The District believes that athletics/extracurricular and co-curricular activities ("extracurricular activities") offer many opportunities for emotional, mental, social and physical growth.

SECTION II – APPLICATION, PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES AND DISCIPLINE

The guidelines in this Athletic/Activity Handbook ("Handbook") apply to all students who seek to participate and students who participate in extracurricular activities at La Plata Middle School and Silver High School. Any and all other District policies regarding student behavior are incorporated herein and violations of those policies will affect eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities. Violations of State and School Board Regulations will be dealt with by the appropriate school administrator(s).

Student misconduct, including but not limited to acts of violence and student possession, distribution or use of drugs or alcohol, negatively impact student performance and the educational process and can bring discredit to the District and its extracurricular activities, regardless of when or where such acts occur. Therefore, participants shall be subject to this policy year round (including summer months), and violations of this Handbook by any student participant at any time will be subject to the penalties and discipline set out herein.

2.1 STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Student participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege and an honor, not a right. Students who participate in extracurricular activities ("participants") voluntarily subject themselves to a higher degree of regulation than that imposed on students generally.

The District encourages participation by as many students as possible and extracurricular activities are carried on with the best interests of the participants as the primary consideration. Participation must not unreasonably interfere with academic activities or other school obligations.

A well-organized and well-conducted extracurricular activity can have a positive influence on the morale of the student body. It also may serve as an important phase of good community/school relations. Too great an emphasis on winning contests or too consistent a record of losing affects the morale of both students and the public.

In establishing an extracurricular activity, the Board directs the administration to:

1. Open all extracurricular activities to all eligible (according to New Mexico Activities Association guidelines) students enrolled at the appropriate grade level.
2. Give every eligible student an equal opportunity to be a member of an extracurricular squad, club, or team; however, membership does not guarantee participation. This condition shall be clearly communicated to students and their parents. Greater participation by all students at grades 7-8 is strongly encouraged.
3. Outfit all teams and activity programs with necessary equipment.

2.2 GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY PARTICIPANTS

1. Participants are subject to all applicable local, state and federal laws, as well as the rules, regulations and policies of the District, the individual school, and the New Mexico Activities Association ("NMAA").
2. It is the responsibility of the participants to know, understand and comply with all applicable rules,

- regulations, and policies.
3. It is understood that it is impossible to have a regulation for every possible circumstance. Extracurricular activity coaches/sponsors and administrators shall use discretionary judgment in their dealing with individual situations not covered by a specific written regulation or policy.
 4. Head Coaches/sponsors of a particular extracurricular activity may impose requirements for that activity that exceed regulations set forth in this Handbook as long as: 1) the head coach/sponsor has received prior approval of the Athletic/Activities Director and Principal, 2) notice is given in a written format prior to the start of the season to both parents and participants, and 3) parent and participant signatures are received.
 5. La Plata Middle School student athletes must maintain the following eligibility criteria to participate in athletic competition at the middle school:
 - a. Start the sport season with (and maintain) a 2.0 G.P.A. or better.
 - b. Maintain a weekly eligibility of a 2.0 G.P.A. and a satisfactory conduct rating.
 - 1) Students will circulate weekly eligibility cards for their teachers to record their letter grade and their conduct grade.
 - 2) If the student becomes ineligible on their weekly card he/she will not participate in the next week's competition but will be required to practice. This remains their status until they meet the LPMS eligibility requirements via their weekly eligibility cards for the next week's competition.
 - c. Ineligibility will be determined weekly by less than a 2.0 G.P.A., two or more F's, and/or two or more unsatisfactory conduct grades.

2.3 DEADLINE FOR JOINING EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

A participant must engage in a minimum of ten days of practice prior to participating in a scheduled event (e.g., a game, meet or match) unless he/she is moving from one activity to another, season to season. The Head Coach/sponsor must turn in a written roll sheet to the Assistant Principal or Athletic/Activities Director verifying the ten days of practice for each participant. All participants are required to start practice on the official starting dates set forth by the NMAA.

Exceptions:

1. The participant transfers to the District from another school district.
2. The participant was actively participating in another extracurricular activity immediately preceding the activity he/she now wishes to join. Participants moving from one extracurricular activity directly to another must be allowed one week off between activities if they so desire without penalty.
3. The participant was unable to join at the proper time due to a health or physical condition. A medical release from a licensed physician will be required.

2.4 PARTICIPATION OF EIGHTH (8TH) GRADE STUDENTS IN HIGH SCHOOL EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The administrations of both La Plata Middle School and Silver High School have incorporated the following guidelines regarding the participation of 8th grade students in high school extracurricular activities.

1. Upon completion of the 8th grade, i.e., the day after the last day of the school year during which the student was in the 8th grade, a student is deemed to be in the 9th grade and subject to the terms of this Handbook.
2. A middle school student may participate in a high school extracurricular activity if: 1) the activity is

not offered at the middle school but is offered at the high school, 2) he/she meets the skill and other criteria established for the activity by the respective Head Coach and the District; and 3) he/she will be a member of the varsity team, squad or club and receive sufficient playing time.

2.5 DISCIPLINE

Disciplinary sanctions will be applied by the school administrator for violations of this Handbook. Sanctions for violations of Sections 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9, and 2.10 are contained herein and will be applied in escalating or progressive levels; however, **the Administration may impose a greater level of sanction for any violation of this Handbook based on the severity, seriousness or circumstances of the violation.** Multiple violations of the Handbook will result in the imposition of disciplinary sanctions for each violation that must be fulfilled completely and consecutively; sanctions may not be fulfilled concurrently. Except for violations of Sections 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9, and 2.10, disciplinary sanctions will be applied by the appropriate coach or sponsor.

Participants may appeal a decision regarding the imposition of sanctions to the Principal. The appeal must be in writing and must be submitted to the principal within five calendar days of receipt of the decision. The principal's decision may be appealed to the Superintendent. The appeal must be in writing and submitted to the Superintendent within five calendar days of receipt of the principal's decision. The Superintendent's decision is final.

2.6 USE OF PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND/OR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES (ILLEGAL DRUGS)

The use, possession, or distribution of alcoholic beverages and/or controlled substances (illegal drugs) is prohibited. Use of and/or possession of such substances will result in disciplinary action by the school administration.

2.6.1 DEFINITIONS [SAME AS SCHOOL DEFINITIONS]

- A. "Alcoholic Beverages" means:
1. distilled or rectified spirits, potable alcohol, brandy, whiskey, rum, gin and aromatic bitters bearing the federal internal revenue strip stamps or any similar alcoholic beverage, including blended or fermented beverages, dilutions or mixtures of one or more of the foregoing containing more than one-half of one percent alcohol, but excluding medicinal bitters.
 2. "beer" means any alcoholic beverage obtained by the fermentation of any infusion or decoction of barley, malt and hops or other cereals in water, and includes porter, beer, ale and stout.
 3. "wine" includes the words "fruit juices" and means alcoholic beverages obtained by the fermentation of the natural sugar contained in fruit or other agricultural products, with or without the addition of sugar or other products, which do not contain less than one-half of one percent nor more than twenty-one percent alcohol by volume.
- B. "Controlled Substances (illegal drugs)" means:
1. a drug or substance listed in Schedules I through V of the Controlled Substances Act, Sections 30-31-1 to 30-31-41, NMSA 1978 Comp., as amended, or regulations adopted thereto.
 2. "hashish" means the resin extracted from any part of marijuana, whether growing or not, and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture or preparation of such resins.
 3. "marijuana" means all parts of the plant Cannabis, including any and all varieties, species and subspecies of the genus Cannabis, whether growing or not, the seeds thereof and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture or preparation of the plant or its seeds. It does not include the mature stalks of the plant, hashish, tetrahydrocannabinols extracted or isolated from marijuana, fiber produced from the stalks, oil or cake made from the seeds of the plant, any other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture or preparation of the mature stalks, fiber, oil or cake, or the sterilized seed of the plant that is incapable of germination.

2.6.2 PENALTIES FOR USE, POSSESSION OR DISTRIBUTION OF ALCOHOL AND/OR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES (ILLEGAL DRUGS)

First Offense – 90 calendar day suspension from all extracurricular activities from the date the offense is verified by the coach/sponsor or school administrator and discipline imposed. Student may participate in practice sessions if coach/sponsor allows.

Second Offense – One year suspension from all extracurricular activities from the date the offense is verified by the coach/sponsor or school administrator and discipline imposed.

Third Offense – Career suspension from all extracurricular activities from the date the offense is verified by the coach/sponsor or school administrator and discipline imposed. Disciplinary consequences for use, possession, or distribution of alcohol and/or controlled substances (illegal drugs) will be administered sequentially while the student is in middle school/ junior high and will begin anew on the first day of the student's last day in 8th grade.

2.7 USE, POSSESSION OR DISTRIBUTION OF PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES – TOBACCO

The use, possession, or distribution of tobacco in any form is prohibited. Use of and/or possession of said substance will result in appropriate disciplinary action.

2.7.1 DEFINITIONS

1. "cigarette" means any roll of tobacco or any substitute therefore wrapped in paper or any substance other than tobacco.
2. "tobacco product" means any product, other than cigarettes, made from or containing tobacco.

2.7.2 PENALTIES FOR USE, POSSESSION, OR DISTRIBUTION OF TOBACCO

First Offense – Students will be suspended from the next activity, event, game, match or meet.

Second Offense – 45 calendar day suspension from all activities from the date the offense is verified by the coach/sponsor or school administrator and discipline administered. Student may participate in practice sessions if coach/sponsor allows.

Third Offense – 90 calendar day suspension from all activities from the date the offense is verified by the coach/sponsor or school administrator and discipline is imposed. Student may participate in practice sessions if coach/sponsor allows.

Fourth Offense – One calendar year suspension from all extracurricular activities from the date the offense is verified by the coach/sponsor or school administrator and discipline imposed.

Fifth Offense – Career suspension from all extracurricular activities from the date the offense is verified by the coach/sponsor or school administrator and discipline imposed.

2.8 HAZING PROHIBITED

Hazing and other initiations of new participants are not acceptable, and any practices or behavior of this kind will not be tolerated. Disciplinary sanctions will be applied by the school administrator and will be subject to the penalties associated with General Violations of Law.

2.8.1 DEFINITION

"Hazing" includes, but is not limited to initiation through taunting, teasing, bullying or harassment by banter, ridicule, mental, physical abuse, texting or cyber bullying.

2.9 TRUANCY PROHIBITED

Participants are expected to be in attendance and on time to all team workouts, practices, and events. Three truanancies will result in the participant's dismissal from the extracurricular activity. Participants in year-round activities (Student Council, FHA, Cheerleading, etc.) will be allowed a total of six (6) unexcused absences before dismissal. Out-of-School Suspensions (up to five) may not count against the participant's unexcused attendance.

2.9.1 DEFINITION

"Truancy" means an unexcused absence from class or practice.

The truancy standard, in regards to participation in extracurricular activities, may not apply in cases where the administration determines after an investigation that a participant was acting in self-defense after deliberate provocation.

2.10 OTHER GENERAL VIOLATIONS OF LAW

In addition to the prohibitions contained in Sections 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, and 2.9, if a participant is charged with violation of any criminal statute or violation of the Children's Code, that participant will be entitled to a conference with the school principal, or designee, as set forth in Section 2.12, and will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

2.10.1 PENALTIES FOR GENERAL VIOLATIONS OF LAW

First Offense –Suspension from next extracurricular activity event. If the violation occurs during a school event the discipline will be either a 10 day suspension or a 2 event suspension from participation and practices of all activities.

Second Offense – 90-calendar day suspension from all extracurricular activities from the date the offense is verified by a school administrator and discipline is administered. Student may participate in practice sessions if coach/sponsor allows.

Third Offense - Suspension from all extracurricular activities for the remainder of their career.

2.11 REPORTS OF VIOLATIONS

Any reports of a participant violating existing policy will be accepted from the following agencies or individuals:

1. Law Enforcement Agency - Federal, State, County, or City.
2. Certified Employees - Administrator or Teacher.
3. Non-Certified Employees - Non-Teaching Coaches Employed by the District.
4. Juvenile Probation Office
5. The administration may also investigate reliable reports that provide reason to believe a violation of

this Handbook has occurred.

2.12 DISCIPLINE PROCEDURE

Any participant alleged to have violated Sections 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9, or 2.10 of this handbook may present to the school principal (or his/her designee) the participant's position regarding the alleged offense before discipline is imposed. The school principal, or designee, shall investigate the matter to the extent he/she deems necessary to determine whether a violation has occurred. The school principal, or designee, shall notify the student in writing of the determination before discipline is imposed.

2.13 ATTENDANCE

1. A participant must attend school a minimum of a full day on the day of competition. If the contest or event is on a non-school day, the required attendance day is the regular school day prior to competing. Under extenuating circumstances the principal may waive this requirement.
2. If, for some reason, a participant cannot attend a scheduled workout, practice or event, (s)he will be required to contact his/her sponsor/coach prior to his/her absence. Said contact shall be either in person or by phone, as much in advance of the absence as possible. Notification of previously scheduled obligations should be made well in advance of the obligation date.
3. The validity and acceptability of the excuse given for missing a workout, practice, or event will be determined by the individual sponsor/coach.
4. Failure to provide the sponsor/coach with a valid and acceptable excuse or to provide advance notification of an absence will result in disciplinary action.

2.14 TRANSPORTATION REGULATIONS

1. There are times when the school will not be providing transportation to and from school. It will be the responsibility of the participant to provide or arrange for his/her own transportation. The excuse of not being able to find a ride will not be considered valid and acceptable without the sponsor/coach's prior authorization.
2. When they choose to participate in the activity or program, participants assume the obligation and acceptable responsibility of being at school or at an event or practice when and where required by their sponsor.
3. Participants must travel to and from all away events with their teams in a school-sponsored vehicle. Participants may not drive themselves or be transported to or from any away event in a private vehicle unless a written administrative release form has been completed, signed and turned in to the coach/sponsor in charge.
4. Participants may be released to their parents or legal guardians if they have written approval from an administrator or coach/ sponsor, and the parent or guardian makes personal contact with the participant's coach/sponsor when (s)he picks up the student.
5. If the participant is to be released to someone other than their parent or legal guardian, the participant must make arrangements with the principal and coach/sponsor and obtain the principal and coach/sponsor's written approval prior to the trip.
6. No radios or tape players, with or without headphones, are allowed on school-sponsored trips without the permission of the coach/sponsor on the trip.

7. All vehicles will be left in a clean condition. Any form of abuse or damage to either the vehicle or its contents is prohibited. Every extracurricular team or group is expected, upon the completion of a trip, to leave the vehicle free of any litter and/or debris. Failure to do so ultimately may jeopardize future trips altogether.
8. Participant's conduct while in transit shall be such as not to distract the vehicle operator or in any way be disruptive to any of the other passengers.
9. Participants shall remain in the supervised area unless they have permission of their coach/sponsor.
10. General participant conduct shall not in any way be disrespectful or disruptive toward persons not associated with their school or district.
11. Motel rooms and furnishings shall be neatly maintained. Any damage to items belonging to the motel will be the responsibility (financial and otherwise) of the room's assigned occupants and their parents.
12. Participants will lodge in their assigned rooms unless given permission to change by their coach/sponsor.
13. Visitation privileges between rooms or participants will be determined by the individual coach/sponsor.
14. Curfews, study times, quiet hours, and lights out will be set by the individual coach/sponsor.

2.15 GENERAL APPEARANCE AND CONDUCT

1. Participants will address all adults and staff members in a respectful tone and manner by their proper title preceding their last name. Addressing said persons by only their last names will be considered inappropriate.
2. All participants will adhere to high standards of personal hygiene at all times.
3. Hair shall be groomed and clothing arranged in such a manner as not to create a health problem, safety hazard, or public disturbance.
4. Rules of good sportsmanship and fair play will be the required standard of behavior before, during, and after all practices and events.
5. The use of profane language or abusive gestures will be prohibited at all times.
6. Participants will treat opponents, officials, other school personnel, and spectators with respect.
7. Participants will not argue or make unsportsmanlike statements or gestures towards opponents, officials, other school personnel, spectators, or other team members.
8. All participants will follow the specific rules and regulations established by their individual coaches/sponsors.

2.16 LETTERING

Coaches/sponsors will set forth requirements for lettering in their respective sports/activities.

2.17 EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

Participants will be responsible for all school issued equipment that is assigned to them during the course of the season and must return it at the end of the season or upon the request of the coach/sponsor. No practice or game/event wear will be given to any participants at the conclusion of their season. Participants will be given equivalent opportunity to purchase (old or unusable) athletic/activity wear. Participants must pay for equipment that is misused, lost, stolen, or damaged beyond normal usage prior to entering a different sport/activity or by the end of the current semester.

Participants are to use facilities only under the direct supervision of a coach/sponsor. Violators will be required to leave the premises and may be subject to further discipline by the appropriate administrator.

2.18 BASIC RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of participants and their parents to report violations of any rule, regulation or procedure and, as reasonable and appropriate, to enforce them.

It is the responsibility of the coach/sponsor to distribute and explain these regulations and answer questions concerning this document. In addition, the coach/sponsor is responsible for enforcement of the regulations and will receive further information through the coach's/sponsor's portion of this Handbook.

Students may participate in more than one extracurricular activity. If a student or parent feels that a coach/sponsor is trying to "pressure" that student to participate in only one sport/activity, they must notify the school administration.

The school administration will notify all student participants who have failed to meet any or all of the eligibility standards.

2.19 SPORTS LABS/ACTIVITY CLASS OFFERINGS

All participants are encouraged to sign up for sports lab and activity class offerings. These labs/class offerings are open to all participants.

SECTION III - ELIGIBILITY

School Administrators, Athletic/Activity Directors, Coaches/Sponsors and participants take extracurricular activity requirements and regulations seriously. The requirements for eligibility are reviewed continuously by School Administrators responsible for the extracurricular activities of our schools. The Administrators set the requirements and policies to help ensure that participation in extracurricular activities is always conducted to promote the following objectives:

Academic performance of participants will be monitored closely to ensure that extracurricular activity participation does not unnecessarily or unreasonably interfere with successful classroom experiences.

Eligibility to compete and participate will be monitored by school officials to ensure participation equity. In order to meet the foregoing objectives, requirements have been set which all participants must meet in order to participate in athletic/activity competitions. Not every participant or parent may agree with each requirement, however, the regulations do apply to each participant. Their sole purpose is to assure that every participant is playing and abiding by the same rules and that enforcement of the rules is consistent and uniform among a particular extracurricular activity's participants. While it may be tempting to try to "cut corners" or "shade the rules," Administrators, Coaches/Sponsors and parents will not do so if they care about the integrity of athletic and activity programs.

3.1 ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility requirements include parent approval, satisfactory academic record and school citizenship records, physician's approval and proof of health insurance. Satisfactory academic record means a student shall have passed a minimum of four classes, not failed more than one, and had a grade point average of 2.0 or better for the immediate previous grading period, or cumulatively, beginning with and including the second semester of grade eight. The Cumulative Provision may be applied only to the beginning of a semester. Only semester grades are to be used under this provision (specific period grades - 9 weeks are not applicable). During the current semester, students must maintain a passing grade in at least four classes and maintain a 2.0 overall grade average.

3.2 ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY PROCEDURES

The mechanics for determining the student's academic eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities will be detailed in each individual school's faculty handbook in accordance with the guidelines established in the student section of this Handbook.

3.3 PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO ATHLETICS

1. Before a student may be issued any equipment, begin practicing, or in any way participate in a sport or activity related to athletics, he/she must complete and provide the following required information and materials to the proper school officials:
 - a. Athletes must complete and return an "Athletic Participation and Physical" form. This must contain a passing physical examination, signed by a licensed physician, stating the participant is medically eligible to participate in a particular athletic activity or activities.
 - b. All participants must provide proof that they are covered by a current health insurance policy that will cover any incurred medical expense.
 - c. All participants must return a completed Emergency Information card.
 - d. All participants must return a signed Athletic/Activity Agreement.
 - e. All of the required forms can be picked up from the head coach.
 - f. All of the required forms must be returned in person to the: high school - head coach; middle school – head coach
2. All participants must report for all pre- and post-season team or activity meetings and be present and medically eligible at the start of the regular practice season. All participants shall comply with the NMAA's specified minimum number of days "ten practice rule", before participating in their first actual game or event.
3. Injured athletes shall attend all scheduled meetings, practices, and games unless excused by their coach. Injured athletes shall contribute as much as their condition allows.
 - a. Athletes will comply with the directions, restrictions, recommendations, and limitations placed on their activity level by the school nurse, coaches, and physicians.
 - b. Athletes will be diligent and prompt in following directed/prescribed treatments for their injuries.
 - c. Athletes will seek outside medical attention when referred by the school nurse or coaches.
4. Athletes shall report their injuries as soon as they happen or as soon as they realize something is wrong.
 - a. high school - Athletic injuries shall be reported to the head coach. Training room services will be available before, during, after practices and events, and during both lunch periods.
 - b. middle school - All injuries shall be reported to the coaches or school nurse.
5. Student athletes/participants have the right to withdraw from specific activities on the grounds that these activities are aggravating an existing injury or condition. No athlete/participant may be pressured or forced into participation in an activity that the athlete/participant feels may aggravate an existing injury or condition.
6. Athletes under the care of a physician must obtain a written release from that physician BEFORE they will be allowed to return to any athletic participation.

- a. high school - to be issued by and returned to the head coach.
- b. middle school - to be issued by and returned to either the coach or school nurse.

If the Participant fails to provide a written release or fails to see a physician when referred, they will remain ineligible, and may not participate in any manner in any activities until the required information is produced in writing from a physician.

7. Athletes will obey and abide by any limitations or restrictions placed on them by a licensed physician. Neither the athlete nor the coach can overstep the authority of the physician.
8. Athletes injured and removed during the course of a competitive event must have clearance from a physician prior to returning to competition.

3.4 OTHER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Students may participate in only one seasonal sport or athletic team at a time but may be involved in both extra and co-curricular activities during this time. Students wishing to participate in school and non-school related sports or athletic programs during the same season must have the principal's approval prior to participation in school sponsored athletic programs. Non-school games or meets will be counted in the number of games or meets that a student may participate in during that sports season as per NMAA ruling.

If a student quits a particular athletic/activity program or is discharged for disciplinary reasons (other than those pertaining to Sections 2.6-Drugs and Alcohol, 2.7-Tobacco, 2.8-Hazing, 2.9-Truancy and 2.10. Violations of Law), they will remain ineligible to participate in another extracurricular activity during that same season. The student may be released to participate in another athletic/activity program or sport if the releasing coach/sponsor and the principal or his/her designee agree.

A student withdrawing from participation in an extracurricular activity will be required to:

1. Discuss the withdrawal with the coach or sponsor first; and
2. Return all equipment and clear all financial responsibilities with the athletic/activity department.

3.5 ELIGIBILITY APPEAL PROCEDURES

1. A written appeal of an eligibility decision may be submitted to the principal within seven calendar days of the decision.
2. If an appeal hearing is granted by the principal, the following people shall be voting members of the appeal board: Assistant Principal, Student's counselor, one faculty member selected by the principal.
3. The student will be present at this appeal hearing and will have the option of having his/her parents in attendance.
4. The burden of proof is on the student.
5. If the appeal is granted in favor of the student, a formal appeal may be filed with the NMAA.

3.6 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP RINGS

Sport teams that win a state championship will be afforded the opportunity to fundraise for team championship rings. The cost of each ring will not exceed \$200.00. Rings will be for players, managers, and coaches that were part of the championship team.

Silver High Social Media Policy and Guidelines for Student-Athletes

As a reminder, participating and competing in any Athletic Program at Silver High School is a privilege. Student-athletes at SHS are held in the highest regard and are seen as role models on our campus and in the community. As leaders you have the **responsibility** to portray your team, your school, and yourselves in a positive manner at ALL times. As individuals you should demonstrate **respect** towards everyone regardless of their sex, race, age, profession, or school. As teenagers you are constantly met with challenges to make the right decision. As a student-athlete we are asking you to have **integrity**, making the right decision ALL THE TIME.

Please understand everything you post/tweet/text on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, and general texting is PUBLIC information. Any text, photo, and/or video placed online is completely out of your control the moment you place it online.

Student-athletes should be aware that third parties – including peers, media, coaches, and even future employers—could easily access your profiles and view all your profile information. This includes all pictures, videos, comments and posts. Inappropriate material found by third parties affects the perception of the student-athlete, our programs, and Silver High. Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online communities include the following:

- Photos videos, comments or posts showing the personal use of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco
- Photos, videos and comments of a sexual nature
- Pictures, videos, comments or posts that condone drug-related activity
- Content online or sent thru a text that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning, threatening toward any other individual or entity (examples: derogatory comments regarding another peer, coach, teacher, student from a different school, etc..)
- No posts should depict or encourage unacceptable, violent, or illegal activities (examples: hazing, sexual harassment, fighting, etc..)
- Creating a serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person
- Use of profanity

If a student-athlete is found to be using social media or text messaging in accordance with the above behaviors he/she will receive the following disciplinary actions:

1. Meeting with student-athlete, head coach, parents, and athletic director AND 1 game suspension
2. Dismissal from your current program for the rest of the season
3. 1 year suspension from all sports
4. Suspension for the remainder of high school career

It is the intention of the Silver High School Administration to bring awareness to our students of the potential negative effects of social media. Please review the appropriateness of your online public material, and consider whether it upholds and positively reflects you, your family, team, and Silver High School. In doing so, we believe you will not only continue to have positive experiences during your years at Silver High School, but you will leave high school with values necessary to live a positive and rewarding life.

By signing the Athletic/Activity Agreement you affirm that you understand the SHS Social Media Policy. Also, you affirm that failure to comply with this policy may result in consequences that include immediate dismissal from your athletic team.

***Silver Consolidated Schools Administration will not review claims beyond 30 days from date received.*

