



# SOMERSET ACADEMY VILLAGE

Revised  
7/19/14

## GATOR ATHLETICS HANDBOOK

2014-2015

The Somerset Academy Village Gator Handbook outlines all of the rules, regulations, requirements, and guidelines for a student's participation in extra-curricular team sports. Parent will be notified of any changes to this handbook through a memorandum. Changes will also be posted at [www.somersetwm.com](http://www.somersetwm.com).

Please take the opportunity to thoroughly review the contents of this handbook carefully. The rules and regulations contained in this handbook will be enforced for all students participating in any Somerset Gator Athletic activities. If you have any questions, please contact the Athletic Director, Patricia Boiteux at [pboiteux@somersetwm.com](mailto:pboiteux@somersetwm.com) or 954-390-0971. We look forward to a winning year of Somerset Gator Athletics.

### MISSION STATEMENT:

We offer all eligible students an opportunity to cultivate his/her skills and talents through participation in athletics. We will instill in our athletes a perspective of teamwork, commitment, respect, self-discipline, and a positive work ethic. Coaches will approach each season with a TEAM philosophy while being competitive during all games.

Together Everyone Achieves More

### PURPOSE:

Participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right. The athlete must earn this privilege through dedication, desire, and discipline. In order to achieve athletic excellence, the student/athlete must discipline himself or herself to be:

1. A positive role model to peers.
2. Behaving appropriately at all times.
3. Demonstrating and maintaining academic eligibility.

### ATHLETIC POLICIES:

#### Coaching:

- At the beginning of each season, the Somerset athletic staff and coaches will try to accept all players in grades six through eighth interested in competing. However, should our team enrollment reach a point where the coaches cannot work effectively or safely, Somerset athletics will try to offer a second team (team B) for the same season. Should a second team not be possible, for any reason, a tryout and cut system will be initiated. Tryouts for each team will be based on talent, speed, effort, and behavior. The head coach is responsible for the selection of the team players.

#### Attendance:

- Attendance at practice is mandatory. If circumstances arise whereby a student cannot attend a practice, the coach **must be notified** before the practice by personal contact, a phone call, or a written statement from the parents or guardian.
- Any athlete who cuts practice, fails to appear for a game, fails to make scheduled team meetings, or fails to attend school on a game day or practice days may not be allowed to participate in any game or games at the discretion of the Head Coach or Athletic Director.
- Unexcused absences from practices, games or meetings may result in removal from all athletics.
- All athletes must attend all classes. Athletes delinquent in class attendance or consistently tardy are subject to disciplinary action.

**Eligibility:**

- To be eligible for athletics, the athlete must be in compliance with the guidelines set by the Florida High School Activities Association. The guidelines for each sport are published by the FHSAA and are on file and posted in the Athletic Director's Office.
- The Athletic Director and coaches will monitor academic performance and behavior on a regular basis. Coaches will be informed of all concerns pertaining to grades, effort, and conduct of the student athlete. If the semester grade point average falls below a 2.5, the athlete will be placed on athletic probation and may be allowed to participate based upon a decision by the athletic director. If the semester grade point average falls below a 2.0, the athlete will not be allowed to participate.
- It is required that athletes have all S's/I's in effort on their report card or they may be placed on athletic probation.
- Athletes placed on any type of disciplinary action may not participate in games or practices until the actions or infractions have been satisfied.
- Athletes may only participate when all required medical, eligibility, hold harmless, and transportation forms have been filed out for each season.
- All of the athlete's paper work and fees must be turned in to the Athletic Director before the first day of practice for specified sport.
- The school and its athletic department reserve the right to drug-test students participating in extra-curricular activities. If a student fails a drug-test performed by or on behalf of Somerset and/or its athletic department, the student shall no longer be eligible to participate in any extra-curricular school program (includes all clubs, service organizations, athletics, yearbook, newspaper, etc.) at Somerset for the remainder of his/her educational career at Somerset Academy (i.e., if a middle school student fails a drug-test, then that student shall be ineligible throughout end of the child's 12<sup>th</sup> grade at any Somerset Academy for any extra-curricular activities).
- Any student who receives a suspension from school may not participate or finish the current or upcoming season.

**Commitment:**

- It is recommended that all athletes participate in more than one sport. Once an athlete begins a season training period of a sport, he/she may not quit to join another sport during the same season. Any athlete who quits a sport to participate in another sport shall be subject to being withheld from all participation until the end of the sport season. No athlete may participate in a second sport (next seasonal sport) until being cleared from the first sport by obtaining a written release from that coach and approved by the Athletic Director. When released, the athlete is free to try out for any sport of his/her choice during the tryout period. The head coach of that sport has the right to determine if an athlete is skillful enough to remain on the team.

**Personal Appearance:**

- An athlete becomes a representative of the school and is considered to be in position of leadership. Athletes are expected to dress and comply fully with the Somerset Academy Village uniform dress code at all times during school hours and when attending school-sponsored activities. Lack of adherence to these rules can result in the athlete being suspended from practice and/or games. Failure to comply after written notification can result in suspension and/or removal from the team.
- For all practices, the athlete must be in proper Somerset Academy Village physical education uniform. Before each practice the athlete will be able to change into said uniform.
- For all competitions, the athlete must be in the proper uniform, ready to compete. Before each game, the athlete will be able to change into said uniform.
- Failure to comply with the above can result in suspension from the team and/or removal from the team.

## **MANDATORY ATHLETIC FEE:**

Each student athlete is required to pay a *non-refundable, mandatory* Athletic Fee per sport played before the first game of each season. Failure to complete this requirement will render the athlete ineligible to play. The amount due is listed below and is used to cover the basic expenses of the school's athletic program such as referees/officials fees, transportation, FHSAA dues, field rentals, required on-site security, emergency medical personnel, training staff equipment, etc. In order to participate, athletes must meet all team fundraising goals set forth by the head coach and approved by the administration. Without this fee and fundraisers we would not be able to offer an athletics program.

### **Fees for Middle School Teams:**

- \$80.00 –Middle School Volleyball, Soccer, Basketball, Flag Football, Cheerleading, Track & Field, Softball
- \$50 – Each additional sport during the same school year, after the above fee is paid for the first.

Make a full payment or pay in installments completing the final payment before the first game of the season or the student will not be cleared to play. The payment(s) will only be accepted by the Treasurer, Mr. Shaffer or Ms. Boiteux and must be CASH, CHECK, or MONEY ORDER. Coaches are NOT authorized to collect this payment. "Sibling Discounts" will not be made.

The mandatory athletic fee requirement must be fulfilled before the first game of the team's season or the student will not be cleared to play. Other team or school fundraising activities and/or donations to the team or school (including Parent Hours donations) will **NOT** count towards the Athletic Fee requirement, only the options above will satisfy the Athletic Fee. Athletic fee is non-refundable if a student is dismissed/suspended from a team by the school administration due to disciplinary and/or academic issues. It is also non-refundable if the student quits the team on his/her own merit. Refunds for students deemed medically unfit to participate, after having been initially cleared, will only be considered after a letter from a medical professional, stating that the student is not able to participate, has been presented and verified. The amount of the refund will vary depending on the amount of time the student was listed on the team's roster as part of the team and will be determined by the Athletic Director and Administration. *No Refunds past half way through the season.* Future participation in the school's athletic program by a student previously deemed medically unfit to participate will only be considered after the student presents a new letter confirming they are fit to participate, in the particular sport, from a medical professional. Refunds will not be issued due to a perceived lack of playing time. **All pending financial obligations must be satisfied before an athlete can participate in any competitions.**

## **EQUIPMENT:**

All athletes are required to replace lost team gear or gear damaged due to use outside of team sanctioned activity, by payment to replace the lost or damaged article(s). A financial obligation will be issued and in force until the full payment is received.

## **PHYSICAL EXAMINATION:**

All athletes are to have a fully completed & signed FHSAA Physical Examination Form on file before taking part in any team practices or competitions. Forms are in this packet.

## **SOMERSET ACADEMY, INC AND THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT...**

- Assume no financial or legal responsibility for injuries occurring to any athlete or costs associated with treatment.
- Reserve the right to seek medical attention for all athletes should an emergency arise while under our supervision.
- Reserve the right to test student participating in extra-curricular activities for banned and/or illegal substances. Refusal to participate may result in removal from the athletics program. A positive result for banned/illegal substances may result in removal from the athletics program, as well as further administrative consequences.

**SCHOOL DECORUM:**

An athlete is expected to govern his/her conduct in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Somerset Academy Student Handbook and any violations of the student's obligations can result in removal from competitive athletics.

**AWARDS CRITERIA:**

Athletic awards are given in recognition of outstanding athletic achievement and service to the school. In all cases, students must complete the entire season, as a member of the team, in order to be eligible for any award.

***The following pages must be completed, signed, and returned to the school before a student is eligible for athletic competition.***

- . Gator Athletics Contract
- . Athletic Program Agreements
- . FHSAA Pre-participation Physical Evaluation
- . FHSAA Consent and Release from Liability Certificate
  - . FHSAA Concussion Release Form

# GATOR ATHLETICS CONTRACT

## 2014-2015

Student Athlete's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signing this letter states that I, the parent/guardian of the above named student, and my child have received, read and understand the Somerset Academy Village Gator Athletics Handbook and do agree to be held to all the policies, rules and consequences as stated. I also understand the T.E.A.M. philosophy that everyone participates in practice. I understand that by participating in the athletic extra-curricular program, I grant the right to allow Somerset Academy to drug-test my child participating in extra-curricular activities. I also understand the fact that there might be a need for tryouts and cuts. It is the family's responsibility to update Somerset Academy of any change to the insurance information. I have read and understand the Gator Athletic Contract, physical examination, hold harmless form, transportation form, activity and uniform fee, and know that all forms must be filled out in their entirety and turned in to the Head Coach before my child may participate with the team. The last day to turn this information in is the day before the first day of practice for each sport.

### **MANDATORY ATHLETIC FEE**

Each student athlete is required to pay a **non-refundable, mandatory** Athletic Fee, per sport played, before the first game of each season. Failure to complete this requirement will render the athlete ineligible to play. The amount due is listed below and is used to cover the basic expenses of the school's athletic program such as referees/officials fees, transportation, FHSAA dues, field rentals, required on-site security and emergency medical personnel, training staff equipment, etc. In order to participate, athletes must meet all team fundraising goals set forth by the head coach and approved by the administration. Without this fee and fundraisers we would not be able to offer an athletics program.

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In case of emergency, I/we do authorize the Somerset Academy athletic staff and its volunteers to seek emergency medical care should the need arise. I/we hereby release and save harmless the school, its agents and its volunteers, from any and all liability that may occur during this athletic season.

X \_\_\_\_\_  
*Student Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Printed Name

X \_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent or Guardian Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Printed Name



# 2014-2015 Somerset Academy Athletics Program Agreements

We (I) give permission for my child \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in the Somerset Academy interscholastic \_\_\_\_\_ team. We (I) assume all responsibility for any medical cost that may result from injury.

My medical insurance carrier name is: \_\_\_\_\_

and my policy number is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Attach Copy of Insurance Card to this form:**  
Parent must notify the school of any changes in Insurance policies.

Physician Information ~ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Day time parental contact number is: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Parent (Guardian) Signature X* \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **HOLD HARMLESS: RELEASE OF LIABILITY / ASSUMPTION OF RISK**

Participation in athletic activities and the use of athletic equipment and/or facilities involves a risk of accidental injury despite all safety precautions. We (I) assume all risk and hazards incidental to these activities, and release Somerset Academy, its officers, directors, independent contractors, volunteers and all employees, for any illness or injury to my child occurring during participation in any activity or use of any facility conducted by Somerset Academy Village Elementary and Middle.

*Parent (Guardian) Signature X* \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name:

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Student: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **SOMERSET GATOR ATHLETICS: PERMISSION FOR TRANSPORTATION**

We (I) hereby give permission for my child: \_\_\_\_\_ to travel by the schools designated transportation as part of the after school Interscholastic Athletic Program.

We (I) understand that it is my responsibility to pick up my child (children) at the Somerset Academy campus upon the athlete's return from competitions. Return times will be posted and pick up must be within fifteen minutes of return time. Any late pick up will result in a charge of five dollars per fifteen minutes and each fifteen minutes thereafter. If picking the athlete(s) up at the competition venue, the Athletic Director must be informed in advance so the coach(es) can be notified. When taking the athlete from a competition venue, the parent must sign the athlete out on the coach(es)' transportation list.

*Parent (Guardian) Signature X* \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name:

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Student: \_\_\_\_\_