

# **Soddy Daisy High School**

## **Student — Parent Band Participation Information**

### **Mission and Philosophy**

Band plays an integral part in the life of many students at Soddy Daisy High School by assisting in promoting the importance of teamwork, effort, goals, and commitment. The staff of SDHS recognizes that the band room, athletic fields, and gymnasiums are an extension of the classroom, where teaching is foremost in the development of character. Band, especially marching band, is highly competitive, but winning is not the primary measure of success. Sportsmanship, respect for participants, and dignity in the face of adversity are more important than the outcome of the contest. All band students do not perform at the same level, but all can demonstrate effort, dedication, and fair play.

### **Student Eligibility Requirements**

1. Student band members are also required to have on file a Indemnification form signed by a parent or legal guardian stating that the student athlete has the consent of his/her parent(s) or legal guardian to participate in practice/games/contests.
2. In addition to other infractions, a student may be suspended or removed from the band/guard for unexcused absences or chronic tardiness to classes or team practices.
3. A student may not participate when he/she is serving an out-of-school suspension. The student becomes eligible to participate on the next school day following the suspension.
4. A student must meet the TSSAA academic requirements. A student must also meet the coach's requirement for academic standards. An athlete may be put on suspension or even be removed from a team if he/she is not reaching his/her potential

### **Band Selection**

The band program is based on a recommendation system. All students who participate will be recommended by their middle school director or last high school director. All students will be evaluated to determine the level in which each will participate. The band staff will expect students to perform at his/her highest level in the areas of performance, attitude, and competitiveness. The official start date for each season as set forth by the band calendar and will serve as the tryout period. The length of the tryout period will be determined by the band director. The band staff has sole discretion of which students are eligible for the band or color guard. There will be no guarantee as to the performing time for any band/guard member. Off season legal issues or drug/alcohol use could prohibit a student from being able to continue membership in the program.

## **Sportsmanship**

An important mission of the band program is to teach and reinforce values relating to sportsmanship, competition, and fair play. It is expected that band personnel, parents, and spectators respect this mission by exhibiting appropriate behavior at any band event.

## **Assumption of Risk**

Participation in band activities often includes intense competition and poses the potential for serious injury. Participants and parents are urged to consider that there are inherent risks and hazards associated with band participation. Risks vary and can occur under direct supervision and with the use of proper equipment.

## **Travel**

The band will travel to away games by bus. There will be occasions when coaches, parents, or other school personnel transport band students to sporting events or activities. In such cases, all parties must follow the car pool policy, if they are transporting any student other than their child, they must have passed a background check for the current school year through HCDE.

## **Car Pool Policy**

Students must ride in a car with a coach, approved parent, or other school personnel, and they all must leave from point A to the event together. After the game, a parent can leave the game with his/her child to go home as long as they have no other student in the car with them. Anyone leaving the facility transporting a student, other than their child, must return to point A with the car pool (TSSAA rule).

## **Hazing**

Hazing is prohibited at all times. Hazing involves any act that subjects band members to mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule, whether it is done in person, social media, or etc. In some instances, hazing constitutes a criminal act. At a minimum, hazing may lead to immediate dismissal from the program.

## **Communication with Directors**

Parents should not attempt to address directors during or immediately after games/contests. Directors have many post game/contest responsibilities, including supervision of students. Also, the post-game/contest is often emotionally charged, and not conducive to productive discussion. If a parent feels a need to communicate a concern, the parent should contact the coach and/or athletic director to arrange a later meeting.

## **Uniforms**

All student band member is expected to adhere to the practice uniform and game uniform requirements set forth by the director. A student is never to start taking off part of the uniform, i.e. socks, shoes, and etc., during a game unless instructed to by a director or staff. It is the responsibility of the band student to take care of their uniform and return it within a week after season ends in good repair or suffer the cost of replacing it.

## **Chain of Command**

The Soddy Daisy High School Band will strictly adhere to the policy that a disgruntled parent, fan or student **MAY NOT** address the director **before, during, or after** a contest.

### **Procedures for addressing a concern:**

1. If the concern starts with your child, have your child talk with the director first.
2. Email the director and request a meeting.
3. If there is no resolution, contact the Principal.

**\*\*It is important NOT to confront a director BEFORE or AFTER a game/contest.**

These meetings will be made by **appointment** at a designated date and time. The band member will be present at all meetings between parents and directors unless need dictates different.

## **Participation Standards**

**Participation in the band program is a privilege, not a right.** Accordingly, students must meet certain standards in order to earn the privilege of participation. At a minimum, the following standards are required of all band students.

1. Exhibit public behavior that will reflect positively on the band program, school, and community.
2. Exhibit responsible, respectful, and trustworthy behavior to other band members and the directors.
3. Exhibit responsible and respectful behavior on social media-Twitter, Instagram, Vine, Facebook, and etc.
4. Exert efforts to maintain a high level of academic achievement as well as maximum effort in practice and competition.
5. Comply with all band program, school, and school system rules, regulations, and policies.
6. Exhibit appropriate behavior at all band and school-related activities.
7. Attend all band functions including games, practices, study hall, service projects, dinners, and etc. unless ill or given prior permission to be absent by the director.
8. Respect calls and decisions made by judges.
9. Display good sportsmanship at all times.
10. Report to the director any issues or developments that may affect eligibility status, including change of residence.

## **Illegal Substances/Alcohol/Tobacco/Steroids/Controlled Substances**

All students at Soddy Daisy High School are expected to refrain from the use of all tobacco products, drugs, and alcohol, both at school and during non-school times. Parents are responsible to oversee and monitor their student's behavior while off school grounds and are expected to take appropriate, decisive action to identify and prevent non-prescribed use of these substances by their student.

SDHS staff, including directors and administrators, are charged with the task of alerting students to the harmful effects of tobacco products, drugs, and alcohol and to take corrective action upon verification of student use of these items. The commitment to tobacco-free, drug-free, and alcohol-free behavior is especially important for those students who represent Soddy Daisy High School in any school sponsored activity. The reputation of our school and the ultimate safety and welfare of students are jeopardized if the commitment is broken. For this reason, the Soddy Daisy High School Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco Pledge has been developed.

## **Dismissal From or Quitting a Team**

Once a band member begins practice and his/her membership is terminated for a reason other than being cut due to lack of ability, he/she is ineligible to participate in any other activity during that season unless he/she is given prior approval by the director and/or the school administration after a thorough investigation of the case with all involved parties. Once a band member is in the program and voluntarily quits that team, he/she is ineligible to participate in any other activity during that season unless he/she is given prior approval by the director and/or the administration.

## **Social Media**

The use of social media, network sites, personal web pages, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, blogs, etc. are considered an extension of how you represent yourself. Pictures and/or information included on such sites will be considered the truth. Any student who posts information that is derogatory, threatening, disrespectful, or bullying towards peers, directors, opponents, teachers, administrators, and other community members or that is demonstrating/insinuating acts of drug/alcohol use, sexually inappropriateness, or any other inappropriate actions will be held to the same standards as if acting in person. The consequences could include suspension or dismissal from the program and suspension from school.

## **Activity Probation**

At the direction of the principal, a band student may be placed on probation in lieu of or in addition to other penalties when a student is involved in a significant breach of the general policies of the Band Handbook. If a second breach of general policy occurs within one calendar year of being placed on probation, the student will be suspended from participation in the Soddy Daisy High School Band program for a length of time to be determined by the principal.

## **General Discipline Policies and Procedures**

The rules, policies, and procedures addressed in the Band/Student Handbook do not cover every possible infraction. Any infractions not listed will be covered by Hamilton County Schools and/or Soddy Daisy High School discipline policy and procedures. Consequences for band members not adhering to any rule, policy, or procedure will be at the discretion of the principal.

## **Parents, Fans, and Spectators**

Any parent, fan, or spectator who acts in a disruptive manner will cause the game/contest to be suspended until the situation is resolved or the spectator is removed by the game/contest officials, Director, or the game/contest administrator. As a result of such a removal, that spectator will not be allowed to return to any SDHS band events until they have met with the Director to discuss the length of the suspension that will ensue. Any parent, fan, or spectator who berates the judges, players, or coaches may be asked by the Director or game administrator to leave before play is stopped by the game/contest official. In such a case, that spectator will not be allowed to return to any SDHS band events until they have met with the Director to discuss the length of the suspension that will ensue.

Soddy Daisy High School recognizes that the band room, athletic fields, and gymnasiums are an extension of the classrooms in which teaching is foremost in the development of character, integrity, sportsmanship, and teamwork.

## **Parent and Student Band Member**

The Band Member and his or her parent/guardian have received and read the "Student-Parent Band Participation Information". Based on this information, the student and parent/guardian understand and stipulate the following:

1. I/We understand the eligibility regulations required for participation.
2. I/We affirm that the student has satisfied all of the eligibility requirements, including age, residence and academics.
3. I/We affirm that the student will exert effort to maintain a high level of academic achievement.
4. I/We understand that there is potential for serious injury associated with participation in band.
5. I/We affirm that the student will not participate in hazing at any time, of any nature.
6. I/We as a participant or spectator, will exhibit a high level of sportsmanship at contests.
7. I/We will follow appropriate procedures in communicating concerns to directors.
8. I/We affirm the student will abide by all band program and participation standards.
9. I/We affirm that the student will not use steroids, illegal drugs, alcohol, and tobacco unless medically prescribed for a specific condition or illness.
10. I/we affirm that I/my child will use social media responsibly. I/we will refrain from posting information, comments or pictures that are derogatory or promote drugs, alcohol, sex, or anything else that will reflect poorly on my teammates, coaches, peers, or school. I/we will not use social media to bully, haze, or harass anyone.

## **Soddy Daisy High School Band Parent Contract**

Parents are a vital part of our Band Program and we want to incorporate the following values of academics, sportsmanship and teamwork.

Review this contract carefully, complete information as requested, sign and return the completed contract to the school.

### **Code of Conduct**

- I will pledge to actively monitor my child's academic progress and reinforce the importance of academic achievement.
- I will remember that my child plays in the band for his/her enjoyment, not for mine.
- I will encourage my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- I will inform the director of any injury or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
- I will demand that my child treat other players, directors, judges, band boosters, and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, sex, or ability.
- I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any judges, director, player, or parent such as booing and taunting or using profane language or gestures.
- I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, directors, officials and spectators at every game, or other sporting event.
- I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the band members.
- I will stress the importance of academics first and foremost, understanding that band participation is a privilege available to support, not excuse classroom obligations.
- I will attend organizational meetings at the outset of each season to meet directors and learn the expectations for participation in the band program.
- I will respect the officials/judges and their authority during games/contests and will never question, discuss, or confront directors at the game/contest field, and will take the time to speak with directors at an agreed upon time and place.
- I will demand a band environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all band events.
- I will give consistent encouragement and support to my band student and fellow teammates, regardless of degree of success, the level of skill or time on the field.
- I will leave the duties of the director to the director, enduring not to publicly criticize directors, strategies, or the band; nor pressure my band member or director about playing time and performances.
- I will educate my child about responsible use of social media and will monitor my child's social media practices.
- I will respect and show appreciation for other parents who share these beliefs.
- I will be there when my child looks to the sidelines for a positive role model.

**I understand that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:**

- **Verbal warning by official, director, school administrator or security officer**
- **Parental suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file**
- **Parental season suspension**

We have read the SDHS Band Handbook and I understand that failure to abide by the policies in the SDHS Band Handbook, the SDHS Student Handbook, or societies laws could lead to disciplinary action by the school that may result with being removed from an athletic team.

## **Soddy Daisy High School Student — Parent Band Participation Contract**

Student: (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ School Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Team: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parents:** (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Parent/Guardian Contract**

I/we have read the SDHS Band Handbook and I understand that failure to abide by the policies in the SDHS Band Handbook, the SDHS Student Handbook, or societies laws could lead to disciplinary action by the school that could lead to being removed from an athletic team.

Signature of parents or guardians: \_\_\_\_\_

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**\*Return this page to your Director**