

# JACKET ATHLETICS

## PARENT GUIDE

STARKVILLE  
OKTIBBEHA  
SCHOOL DISTRICT



*Welcome to the Jacket Nation! The rewards of athletic participation are immediate and enduring for Starkville High School and Armstrong Middle School student athletes. SOCSO offers a wide array of extracurricular athletic activities, and our coaches and staff are committed to developing well-rounded student athletes. While students are involved in our programs, we will assist them in learning valuable lessons through sports to grow not only in the game, but in life. We strive to be part of a team comprised of family members, educators, and community partners to assist our young people in achieving their goals while growing into healthy, happy, and productive young adults. We work hard, play hard, and have fun while coming together to reach our full potential as a team and compete! Thank you for your unparalleled belief in our sports programs; the impact is immeasurable.*

*Yours in Sports,  
Cheyenne Trussell, Ph.D.  
Director of Athletics  
Starkville Oktibbeha School District*

The **Starkville Oktibbeha School District** boasts a winning tradition where our coaching staff and **nearly 600 student athletes** expect excellence every day, in every field of play. This same excellence demonstrated on the field or court extends to the classroom. **In 2017, all 25 SHS varsity sports were honored as MHSAA Scholar Athlete Teams because they maintained a team GPA of 3.0 or higher.** Each year, Yellow Jacket athletes take excellence to the next level, gaining athletic scholarships to continue their education at community colleges and four-year universities.

With students competing in **27 sports and 47 teams from 7th to 12th grade**, the goal of Yellow Jacket Athletics is to deliver exceptional results by embracing a culture of engagement that creates value for our students, staff, and community while continuously improving our process.

# J A C K E T      E X C E L L E N C E



# MHSAA ELIGIBILITY

- Students must attend the school in the zone in which they live in order to be considered eligible for athletics.
- Students must sit out one year from the date of enrollment when transferring to a school outside their zone.
- Middle school students must pass five subjects a year. High school students must pass five Carnegie units toward graduation each year.
- Upon entering the 7th grade, students have two consecutive years for participation in middle school.
- Upon enrollment in the 9th grade, students are eligible to participate in athletics for four consecutive years.
- Eligible high school students should not reach the age of 19 prior to August 1 of the beginning school year. Eligible middle school students should not reach the age of 15 prior to August 1 of the beginning school year.
- Change of legal guardian requires that a student athlete sit out one year.



# REQUIRED FORMS

A permission form, a physical form, and a concussion form are required from all students participating in SOCSO extra-curricular athletic programs. All required forms must be completed, signed by a parent or legal guardian, and returned to the SOCSO Department of Athletics before a student will be allowed to participate in any practice or competition.

A parent packet of required forms is available for download at [www.starkvillesd.com/athletics](http://www.starkvillesd.com/athletics).



# INSURANCE

Starkville Oktibbeha Consolidated School District provides a supplemental insurance plan for all participants in extra-curricular athletic events. In the event of an injury, a claim should also be filed with your family medical plan if your family has access to one. In the result of an injury, SOCSO insurance will only provide coverage after the parent/guardian's primary insurance is exhausted.



# NCAA ELIGIBILITY

Division I and Division II schools require students to meet academic standards for NCAA-approved core courses, core-course GPA and test scores. To be eligible to practice, compete and receive athletics scholarships in a student's first full-time year at a Division I or II school, he or she must graduate from high school and meet all of the following requirements:

## DIVISION I

- Complete a total of 16 core courses in the following areas:  
**ENGLISH:** 4 years  
**MATH:** 3 years, Algebra I or higher  
**NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE:** 2 years (including one year of lab, if offered)  
**ADDITIONAL:** 1 year (English, math, or natural/physical science)  
**SOCIAL SCIENCE:** 2 years  
**ADDITIONAL COURSES:** 4 years (Any core course area listed above, foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy)
- Complete 10 of your 16 core courses, including seven in English, math or natural/physical science, before the start of your seventh semester. Once you begin your seventh semester, you must have more than 10 core courses completed to be able to repeat or replace any of the 10 courses used to meet the 10/7 requirement.
- Complete the 16 NCAA-approved core courses in eight academic semesters or four consecutive academic years from the start of ninth grade. If you graduate from high school early, you still must meet core-course requirements.
- Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score that matches your core-course GPA (minimum 2.300) on the Division I full qualifier sliding scale.

## DIVISION II

- Complete a total of 16 core courses in the following areas:  
**ENGLISH:** 3 years  
**MATH:** 2 years, Algebra I or higher  
**NATURAL/PHYSICAL SCIENCE:** 2 years (including one year of lab, if offered)  
**ADDITIONAL:** 3 years (English, math, or natural/physical science)  
**SOCIAL SCIENCE:** 2 years  
**ADDITIONAL COURSES:** 4 years (Any core course area listed above, foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy)
- Earn an SAT combined score or ACT sum score that matches your core-course GPA (minimum 2.200) on the Division II full qualifier sliding scale.

For more information about NCAA eligibility requirements, visit:  
[ncaa.org/student-athletes/future](http://ncaa.org/student-athletes/future)



# SPORTSMANSHIP

The Mississippi High School Activities Association has stringent rules against unsportsmanlike behavior for all involved in athletic contests. Schools and coaches may be fined or put on probation for misbehavior before, during and after an athletic contest. Schools may be, and have been, reprimanded or put on probation when their fans become unruly or incite behavior deemed to be unsportsmanlike. Consequently, fans may be banned from attending athletic events for unsportsmanlike behavior.

All Starkville Oktibbeha School District coaches, athletes, students, parents, and fans are ambassadors of Jacket Nation and proud representatives of the greater Starkville and Oktibbeha County community. Both on and off every field of play, we strive at all times to create and exemplify our district's relentless culture of excellence. In that effort, **ALL who wear the black and gold adhere to a code of conduct which sparks excellent sportsmanship in ourselves and in others:**

I am a **YELLOW JACKET.**  
I am the **#StarkvilleSpark**

**Yellow Jackets value every competitor.** We recognize that athletics are learning experiences for students. Though mistakes are sometimes made, we applaud all athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes, and as people.

**Yellow Jackets applaud excellence.** We know that good sportsmanship is more important than victory. We acknowledge the good play of every team in the field of play.

**Yellow Jackets demonstrate hospitality.** We show respect for all opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups. They are guests in our hive and will be treated as such.

**Yellow Jackets respect the field of play.** A ticket is a privilege to attend an athletic competition, not a license to disrespect others. We eliminate all types of baiting and taunting from sports activities. Behavior like angry finger pointing, "pistol shooting," obscene gestures and racially derogatory comments must be avoided and must be penalized consistently when they occur.

**Yellow Jackets build up.** We use only those cheers that support and uplift the teams involved. We give all participants (from players to cheer squads to band performers) the right to compete in an atmosphere without boos and derisive comments.

**Yellow Jackets embrace the rules of the game.** We learn them so that we may understand and appreciate why some game situations take place, even if they negatively impact our team. We respect the judgment and integrity of all MHSAA officials.

**Yellow Jackets are clean.** We refrain from the use of any controlled substance (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before and during games and afterwards on or near the site of the event.

**Yellow Jackets lead in any outcome.** We are modest in victory and gracious in defeat, using only words and actions that are worthy of the black and gold.

JACKET EXCELLENCE

EVERY  
DAY



EVERY  
FIELD OF  
PLAY



# OUR HEAD COACHES

## FALL SPORTS

### FOOTBALL:

Chris Jones (Varsity)  
Kevie Thompson (9)  
Steve Densen (8)  
Marlo Fair (7)

### SWIM:

Angela Hobart

### SOFTBALL SLOW PITCH:

Ronald Campbell

### CROSS COUNTRY:

Meggan Franks

### VOLLEYBALL:

Xavier Tillman (Varsity)  
Angela Price Moore (AMS)

### CHEER:

Mauriesa Blackwell (Varsity)  
Mallory Carlisle (AMS)

## WINTER SPORTS

### BASKETBALL:

Greg Carter (Boys Varsity)  
Kristie Williams (Girls Varsity)  
Tony Minor (Boys 7-9)  
Sam Bryant (Girls 7-9)

### SOCCER:

J.T. Howard (Boys/Girls)

### INDOOR TRACK:

Tory Reeves

### POWERLIFTING:

William Stewart (Boys)  
Mauriesa Blackwell (Girls)

### BOWLING:

Jim Philamlee

### ARCHERY:

Tate Fischer

## SPRING SPORTS

### BASEBALL:

Luke Adkins (Varsity)  
Carlos Kemp (9)  
Ben Tillman (7-8)

### GOLF:

Sam Bryant (Boys)  
Angela Hobart (Girls)

### TENNIS:

Anna Albritton

### SOFTBALL FAST PITCH:

Wendy Jolly

### TRACK:

Tory Reeves (Varsity Boys)  
Tony Minor (Varsity Girls)  
Recardo Hines (AMS Boys)  
Kenny Fair (AMS Girls)

# #ExpectExcellence Every Day

## MISSION

The **mission** of the Starkville Oktibbeha School District is to achieve excellence by facilitating the discovery and development of each student's **PASSION, PURPOSE, and POTENTIAL.**

## BELIEFS

We believe excellent public schools are the **HEART of a thriving community.**

We believe **excellent TEACHERS** are essential for student success.

We believe **DIVERSITY is a strength** and shall be embraced, recognized, and celebrated.

We believe **problem solving, critical thinking, and creativity** cultivate **LIFE-LONG LEARNERS.**

We believe quality education fosters **LEADERSHIP and develops good citizens.**

We believe our schools must be **safe, welcoming and RESPECTFUL to all.**

We believe **ENGAGING our families and community** is vital to ensuring each student's growth.

## GOALS

### STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

We will maximize growth of all students through rigorous and meaningful instruction.

### SCHOOL CULTURE

We will foster and maintain inviting, equitable, healthy learning environments that promote safety, engagement, and excellence.

### HUMAN RESOURCES

We will recruit and retain a highly qualified, diverse workforce through an equitable process to ensure student achievement.

### COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

We will engage and partner with community stakeholders to foster greater student opportunities and build a more vibrant quality of life.

### OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

We will maximize resources to ensure operational effectiveness.