

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

2014-2015

“Eligibility to represent a school in interscholastic activities is a privilege students may attain by meeting the standards of eligibility established by member schools through this association and any additional standards set by a member school for its own students. Eligibility is a not a student’s right by law, and precedent setting legal cases have affirmed this.”

Through this athletic handbook we hope to accomplish the following:

1. Develop the guidelines which can be used to establish the foundation for an creditable athletic program which can be enjoyed by the athletes and supported by the administration, student body, and community.
2. Provide rules and regulations where the student will be able to clearly understand what will be expected of him/her and what the discipline will be for violations of those rules and regulations.

We still believe that participating in high school athletic programs brings valuable life lessons. We think students can gain many positive characteristics as participants. Participation can be a rewarding experience. It can build confidence, increase discipline and teach teamwork. It can also teach the participants the values of winning and losing. The participants can develop many positive characteristics which will help in their future lives.

Along with these positive characteristics also comes responsibility on the part of the participant. The student should realize that certain guidelines and rules are expected of him/her from both the state athletic association and the local school district. If the student expects to represent a school on the playing fields of competition, then he/she accepts this responsibility.

GUIDELINES

1. The state high school activities association sets certain guidelines and rules governing the member schools. The pamphlet entitled “How to protect your high school eligibility” covers many of these rules.
2. There is not an ‘in-season’ and ‘out-of-season’ as it pertains to rules and regulations concerning athletes. Those rules, which apply, will be in force continually.
3. Physicals and insurance: as stated in the M.S.H.S.A.A. handbook:

“All schools shall require each student participating in athletics to provide a physician’s certificate stating that he or she is physically able to participate in athletic contests for his/her school.”

“A student shall not be permitted to practice or compete for a school until it has verification that he or she has basic health insurance coverage.”
4. Academics: Each student/athlete should realize that athletics is an extra-curricular activity and that his/her primary reason for being at school is to get an education. Sometimes we put so much emphasis on athletics that we forget the real purpose of extra-curricular activities.
 - a. Students must earn credit in at least 80% of the maximum credits, which could have been earned. (In the 7 hour schedule, 6 of the 7 classes must be passed per semester in order to maintain eligibility.
 - b. Junior high students must have been promoted to a higher grade the preceding year as well as earn credit in at least 80% of the maximum credits, which could have been earned. Junior High eligibility is determined per quarter.
 - c. Students absent from school for over half the instructional day will not be allowed to attend or participate in extracurricular activities that day. Friday’s attendance will affect eligibility for weekend activities. Students with special circumstances (funerals, family emergencies, important appointments) may be allowed exceptions to this rule at the discretion of the principal.

RULES

1. **TOBACCO, ALCOHOL AND DRUGS:** The use of any of these items by an athlete is not only unacceptable but they are also illegal in the courts of law. Few issues are more important to the health and well being of families than the use and misuse of alcohol and other chemicals.

Rules for code of conduct: “Regardless of the quantity, a student shall not use, consume, have in possession, buy, sell or give away any controlled substance, including tobacco products.”

1st offense: a five game suspension

2nd offense: (within 365 days): a one calendar year suspension from athletic competition.

2. **CRIMINAL OFFENSES:** A student/athlete which is guilty of a misdemeanor (Class A, B or C), excluding minor traffic violations, or a Felony (Class A, B, C, or D) will:

1st offense: a five game suspension

2nd offense: (within 365 days): a one calendar year suspension from athletic competition.

3. **CITIZENSHIP:** This handbook is not intended to cover each and every guideline that could be applicable to the student/athlete. As stated in the eligibility pamphlet, each student is to be:

“A creditable school citizen. Creditable school citizens are those students whose conduct – both in school and out of school will not reflect discredit upon themselves or their school.”

If problems arise which the coaching staff and/or administration feel need to be dealt with, fair but firm discipline will be administered. There are also some rules, which will be left up to each coach to set with their respective teams.

“We have received, read, understand,
and agree to abide by all the rules and
regulations listed in the Bernie R-13
Athletic Handbook.”

STUDENT’S SIGNATURE: _____

PARENT’S (GUARDIAN) SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____