

# Pierce City Athletic/Activity Handbook



2016-2017

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Welcome to Pierce City Athletics/Activities</b>	
Welcome	1
Athletic/Activity Program Goal	1
Athletic/Activity Program Philosophy	1
<b>Participant Responsibilities</b>	
Athletic/Activity Commitment	2
MSHSAA	2
<b>Basic Participation Policies</b>	
Eligibility Criteria	3
Academic Eligibility Guidelines	3
Transfer Students	3
Special Services Students	3
Attendance	4
Physical Examinations	4
Out of School Suspension/In School Suspension	4
<b>Citizenship/Code of Ethics</b>	
Citizenship Standards	5
Social Media Guidelines	5
Sportsmanship	6
Chemical Abuse	6-7
<b>Participation in Athletics/Activities</b>	
Sports Season	7
Multiple Sports in the Same Season	7
Student Accountability for Equipment	7
End-of-season uniform collection	8
Quitting	8
Missed Practice Sessions	8
Transportation for Athletics/Activities	8
Athletic Lettering/Awards	9
Non-Athletic Lettering	9
<b>Parent Information</b>	
Parent/Coach Relationship	10-11
<b>Forms</b>	
Pierce City Athletic/Activity Commitment Form	12
Pierce City Athletic/Activity Emergency Contact Form	13

# WELCOME

Welcome to the Pierce City Athletic/Activity Programs! We are excited that you have chosen to participate in one of our co-curricular activities. Statistics show that students that are involved in school programs have an increased chance of academic success and social involvement. Many of the character traits required for success in these programs are precisely those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope the information provided within this handbook informs you of rules and regulations of Athletics/Activities programs and makes both your and your parents experience with the Pierce City Athletic/Activity Programs an enjoyable one. Your decision to participate in any of the Pierce City Athletic/Activity programs will be educational, rewarding, and challenging. The Pierce City R-VI School District encourages you to take advantage of as many opportunities as your time and talent will permit. We do not encourage specialization in any one sport or activity; rather, we would encourage you to experience a variety of sports and activities. Naturally, due to conflicts in seasons, practice times, meeting times, schedules, etc., some choices will have to be made by you. The Pierce City Athletic/Activity programs will support you as you strive to grow mentally, socially, and physically.

## **Athletic/Activity Program Goal**

Student athletics and activities supplement the secondary curriculum program and become a vital part of a student's total educational experience. The goal of any Pierce City Athletic/Activity program is to provide experiences that will help students acquire additional knowledge and skills, plus help students gain the attributes of good citizenship.

## **Athletic/Activity Program Philosophy**

The activities program provides opportunities above and beyond the basic curriculum of the regular classroom. As an integral part of the educational program, activities provide supplemental experiences and help students acquire additional knowledge, skills, and emotional patterns necessary as attributes of good citizenship. This program should provide educational and social experiences that will help develop young men and women physically, mentally and emotionally.

# **PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES**

## **Athletic/Activity Commitment**

The Pierce City R-VI School District believes that extracurricular activities outside of the regular school day enhance the education of each student. We also believe that participating in extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a right. We encourage you to commit yourself to being the best you can be in and out of the classroom. As a student participant, you are in school to secure the best secondary education you are capable of. If the value of activities is to be achieved, certain responsibilities are expected of the student participant.

Because you are in the public eye, your personal conduct always must be above reproach. You have an obligation to create a favorable image and gain the respect of your teammates, the Pierce City R-VI School District, the student body, and the Pierce City community.

You are also expected to:

- Strive to achieve sound citizenship and desirable social traits, including emotional control, honesty, cooperation, dependability, and respect for others and their abilities.
- Maintain academic citizenship and eligibility standards as established by Pierce City R-VI School District and the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA).
- Know and understand the rules and regulations for athletic/activity participation.
- Desire to excel to the limits of your potential.
- Show respect for both authority and property.
- Be willing to accept the leadership role that is instilled through the athletic/activity programs.

## **MSHSAA**

The Pierce City R-VI School District is a member of the Missouri State High School Activities Association. The purpose of this organization is to promote, develop, direct, protect, regulate amateur interscholastic activities between member schools, and to stimulate fair play, friendly rivalry, and good sportsmanship among contestants, schools, and communities throughout the state.

MSHSAA Athletics/Activities offered by the Pierce City R-VI School District

### Athletics

Baseball  
Basketball - B/G  
Football  
Golf - B/G  
Softball  
Swimming & Diving – B & G (Co-Op with Monett)  
Track – B/G  
Volleyball

### Activities

Band  
Cheerleading  
Choir  
Scholar Bowl

## **Basic Participation Policies**

### **Eligibility Criteria**

All students participating in the Pierce City Athletics/Activities program must meet the requirements set by the Missouri State High School Activities Association and the requirements of the Pierce City R-VI academic and conduct eligibility standards. All students must meet the residence and transfer of enrollment requirements set by the Missouri State High School Activities Association. All students must meet the criteria set by the Pierce City R-VI School District and the Missouri State High School Activities Association: pass a minimum of 3.0 units of credit the previous semester or 75% of the maximum available credit and maintain creditable citizenship. Under certain conditions/restrictions up to one unit of credit from summer school may be counted toward activity eligibility. Transfer students must meet the guidelines set by the Missouri State High School Activity Association in order to be eligible.

### **Academic Eligibility Guidelines**

All students participating in the Pierce City Athletics/Activities program must meet the requirements set by the Missouri State High School Activities Association and the requirements of the Pierce City R-VI academic and conduct eligibility standards of passing a minimum of 3.0 units of credit the previous semester or 75% of the maximum available credit. In order to emphasize achievement, the Pierce City R-VI School District requires the following conditions for students to be eligible to participate in any athletic/activity. Progress will be checked at weeks 5, 10, and 15 of the semester. Students with 1 F will remain eligible. Students with 2 F's will be ineligible until next grade check. They will regain eligibility if they have less than 2 F's. Students with one F at the end of the semester will remain eligible. Students with 2 F's at the end of the semester will be ineligible the entire next semester per MSHSAA guidelines.

Coaches and sponsors are encouraged to become involved with students in an effort to raise their grades. Those students who are failing any class and wish to participate in activities will be encouraged to attend tutoring sessions in an effort to raise their grades to a passing level. If a student is in an athletic/activity sponsored by MSHSAA and wishes to drop a course, the student must have a passing grade. If the student is failing the course, the grade must be raised to passing before a schedule change will be considered or the student will be ineligible until the end of the semester.

### **Transfer Students**

Students new to the district must meet Missouri State High School Activities Association criteria for transferring schools/school districts. See the Athletic/Activities Director for criteria.

### **Special Services Students**

All special services students must comply with published Missouri State High School Activities Association guidelines for participation. See the Athletic/Activities Director for criteria.

**Attendance (regular school day)**

Students MUST be in school ½ of the day to participate in a practice or competition. Absences on the day of the contest must be excused by the Building Principal in order for the student to be eligible to participate.

**Physical Examinations**

Every athlete MUST have a current valid physical before they are allowed to participate in practice. Physicals obtained after February 1<sup>st</sup> of the previous school year are valid.

**Insurance**

Students are required to provide their own health insurance before being allowed to participate in Pierce City athletic/activity programs. Pierce City R-VI School District DOES NOT provide insurance to students. Parents are asked to verify coverage on physical form. No one may practice or participate without insurance coverage. If insurance lapses during the school year, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to notify the school.

**Out of School Suspension/In School Suspension**

Students are NOT allowed to participate in competitions or practices if they are in Out of School Suspension or In School Suspension.

## **Citizenship/Code of Ethics**

### **Citizenship Standards**

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a right; therefore, the Pierce City R-VI School District requires students to adhere to standards of behavior which will bring credit to students, the particular activity, the school, and the community. Students who represent the Pierce City School District must demonstrate good citizenship and conduct at all times, including on social media. You are representing the Pierce City R-VI School District and the Pierce City Community every day of the year. The Pierce City R-VI School District requires student behavior be in compliance with school board policy, the school's Student Handbook Regulations, and public laws. Behavior not in compliance with these policies may result in student's suspension from all extracurricular activities.

### **Social Media Guidelines**

Participating in an athletic event/activity for the Pierce City R-VI School District is a privilege. Participants are held in the highest regard and are seen as role models in the school and community. As leaders you have the responsibility to portray your team, your coaches, our school, and yourselves in a positive manner at all times. Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites have increased in popularity globally, and are used by the majority of students in one form or another.

Students should be aware that third parties--including the media, faculty, future employers and college officials--could easily access your profiles and view all personal information. This includes all pictures, videos, comments and posters. Inappropriate material found by third parties affects the perception of the individual, our community, and our school. This can also be detrimental to a student's future options (i.e. college, profession). Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include depictions or presentations of the following:

- Photos, videos, comments or posters showing the personal use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco.
- Photos, videos, and comments that are of a sexual nature. This includes links to websites of a pornographic nature and other inappropriate material.
- Pictures, videos, comments or posters that condone drug-related activity. This includes but is not limited to images that portray the personal use of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.
- Content online that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening toward any other individual or entity (examples: derogatory comments regarding another school; taunting comments aimed at a student-athlete, coach or team at another school and derogatory comments against race and/or gender). No posts should depict or encourage unacceptable, violent or illegal activities (examples: hazing, sexual harassment/assault, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, underage drinking, and illegal drug use).

If you are ever in doubt of the appropriateness of your online public material, consider whether it upholds and positively reflects your own values and ethics as well as those of the Pierce City R-VI School District. Remember, always present a positive image and do not do anything to embarrass yourself, your team, your family, your community, or your school. Students who violate the social media guidelines may be subject to a conference with administration, athletic/activity suspension, athletic/activity dismissal, or other disciplinary action.

## **Sportsmanship**

It is the Pierce City R-VI School District's expectation that extracurricular activities are educational in nature and will benefit all involved. The Pierce City R-VI School District is a member of the Spring River Valley Conference and The Missouri State High School Activities Association. As members of these groups, we adhere to policies set down for the display of good sportsmanship by athletes, students, parents, and fans. Member schools are expected to enforce sportsmanship rules for their own schools players and spectators. All school discipline policies and rules apply directly to Pierce City students at school activities whether they are held on school property or away from school. Failure to adhere to policies may result in disciplinary action or removal from participation. All coaches/advisors, parents, and other fans are expected to:

1. Maintain pride for self and school.
2. Strive to keep high standards of conduct.
3. Refrain from the use of profanity or implied profanity.
4. Not engage in disrespectful chants, including personal remarks directed at players and officials.
5. Not display disrespectful behaviors to other fans, players, or cheerleaders.
6. CHEER FOR YOUR OWN TEAM-NOT AGAINST THE OTHER TEAM!
7. Be a credible citizen at all times.
8. Abide by the Pierce City R-VI School District Board Policy prohibiting the use of tobacco products inside the building or outside on any school or athletic grounds.

## **Chemical Abuse**

The Pierce City R-VI School District recognizes that the use of mood altering chemicals poses a significant health problem for many adolescents, resulting in negative effects on behavior, learning, and the total development of each individual. The possession or use of tobacco and of mood-altering chemicals, such as alcohol, drugs, marijuana, etc., by adolescents affects extracurricular participation and the development of related skills.

Athletics/Activities are an extension of school and all regular school rules and regulations are applicable. Rules for athletic/activity participants are more severe and are enforced in and out of school. In addition, violations involving tobacco, alcohol, and mood-altering chemicals will result in suspension from activities which includes practices, contests, and any team functions. Penalties are cumulative for the student's entire High School career. (Example, student has tobacco violation during volleyball 9<sup>th</sup> grade and an alcohol violation in 11<sup>th</sup> grade basketball, the student will have incurred their 2<sup>nd</sup> violation.) Possession shall be defined as visual or physical evidence which is substantiated by a school official or law enforcement officer, to the satisfaction of the administration. Violation of the alcohol/drug policy shall cause the student to receive the following citizenship penalty:



**Tobacco**

First violation: First occurrence: Suspended from 10% of maximum number of allowable contests

Second violation: SUSPENDED 365 CALENDAR DAYS FROM DATE OF INFRACTION

**Alcohol**

First violation: First occurrence: Suspended from 25% of maximum number of allowable contests

Second violation: SUSPENDED 365 CALENDAR DAYS FROM DATE OF INFRACTION

**Illicit chemicals/Illegal substances**

First violation: ABSOLUTELY NO TOLERANCE; SUSPENDED 365 CALENDAR DAYS FROM DATE OF INFRACTION

## **PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETICS/ACTIVITIES**

**Sports Season**

Any student who is on an athletic/activity eligibility roster may NOT begin (participate in) the next athletic/activity season until the previous season is officially over (last contest). All obligations need to be cleared before the next athletic/activity season begins. Students are responsible for all equipment that has been checked out to them. Students that owe money or equipment to one activity will not be permitted to begin a season or continue a season with another activity. All outstanding fees must be paid to the organization and all equipment must be turned into the coach/sponsor before a student will be permitted to practice or compete.

**Multiple Sports in the Same Season**

Students may participate in two sports during one season (ex. Softball/Baseball and Track). Students must select a primary sport to attend when there is a competition conflict. Students may NOT participate in a sports season and an off-season conditioning program for another sport at the same time.

**Student Accountability for Equipment**

In order to give students a sense of responsibility and an appreciation of their equipment, students will be held accountable for the abuse or loss of any equipment. Any equipment lost or stolen **MUST** be paid for by the student in whose name it was issued. Adherence to the following guidelines will reduce the chances for lost or stolen equipment.

- Do not exchange or loan equipment.
- Keep your locker locked at all times.
- Report loss of equipment immediately to coach.
- Report any defective/unfit equipment to the coach.
- MSHSAA regulations prevent schools from loaning or selling equipment.

### **End-of-season uniform collection**

Student participants will have a grace period of 7 (seven) days following the final contest of an activity to return all school equipment back into the coach/sponsor. After this grace period, a participant will not be allowed to participate in practices or contests until the equipment is submitted and/or fees paid and verified by the coach/sponsor.

### **Quitting**

Once a season is underway, it becomes detrimental to the individual athlete as well as to the team for a participant to quit; therefore, the Pierce City R-VI School District has adopted the following policy:

Any participant that quits of his/her own accord after the “try-out period” (5 days) will be subject to the following consequences:

**1st occurrence:** suspension from 10% of the maximum allowable contests of the next season that the participant is active in.

**2nd occurrence:** suspension from all activities for 365 calendar days from the date of the second occurrence.

Once a participant quits an activity, they must attend an exit interview with the building principal and the athletic/activities director (if any party has to be excused from the exit interview, another administrator may step in). Until a participant completes the exit interview, they may not participate in any practices, contests or activities with another organization, team, or group. If it is deemed by the administration in the exit interview that there are mitigating and extenuating circumstances causing the participant to quit, the consequences may be suspended. This is to be determined on a case-by-case basis by the administrative team. If a participant does not finish a season because he/she is removed from the team by the coaching staff the consequence remains the same, however, no exit interview is required.

### **Missed Practice Sessions**

Once a season is underway, it becomes detrimental to the individual athlete as well as to the team for a participant to miss practice; therefore, the Pierce City R-VI School District has adopted the following policy:

Any participant that acquires three (3) unexcused missed practices throughout the course of the season will be removed from the sport/activity. If a student is removed from the sport/activity because of missed practices, the quitting policy will apply.

Any practice that is to be considered excused must be approved by the building principal and the coach notified.

### **Transportation for Athletics/Activities**

The Pierce City R-VI School District provides transportation via school bus to and from all athletic/activity competitions. Students are required to ride school buses to and from athletic/activity events. Students are expected to return from activities on the bus unless signed out by a parent or legal guardian. Once a parent or legal guardian has signed their student out, students may ride only with a parent/ legal guardian. Any other exceptions MUST be approved by the building administrator.

### **Athletic Lettering/Awards**

All of the Pierce City R-VI School District athletic programs offer an athletic letter. In order to be eligible to receive an athletic letter a student athlete must participate in one-third (1/3) of the athletic events quarters/innings/sets/holes and be a member of the athletic team at the end of the season. Quitting an athletic team forfeits all rights to a team letter, even if the student has met the required amount of participation. Subjective criteria such as, but not limited to, the factors of sportsmanship, citizenship, and good team membership also determine the conferring of a letter. If a student has been a member of the same athletic team for all 4 years but hasn't reached the one-third (1/3) requirement, he/she will be award an athletic letter. At the end of the school year the Pierce City R-VI School District will hold an awards banquet for all sports. Any students that participate in an athletic program are eligible for end of the season awards. All awards require the student be a member of the team/activity at the end of the season. Coaches for each athletic team will determine the recipient of the awards and what awards will be given. The following Pierce City High School athletic events will be represented at the end of the year athletic banquet.

Football	Volleyball
Girls Golf	Girls Basketball
Boys Basketball	Cheerleading
Baseball	Softball
Boys Golf	Boys Track
Girls Track	

### **Non-Athletic Lettering**

Several organizations offer a non-athletic letter for their activity. Each activity offers objective qualifications and criteria for lettering set by the organization. The additional factors of good school citizenship and a constructive, positive attitude are integral criteria of the lettering process. For lettering requirements, check with individual staff advisors. Activity award requirements are available from the sponsor of each activity.

## **PARENT INFORMATION**

### **Parent/Coach Relationship**

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, everyone is better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to students. As parents, when your student becomes involved in a program, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on your student. This begins with clear communication from the coach/sponsor of your student's activity. Coaches and parents are expected to encourage and praise students in their attempt to improve themselves as students, athletes, and citizens. Parents can facilitate this by gaining an understanding and appreciation of all aspects of the sport/activity and the expectations placed on your student.

### **Communication That Coaches/Sponsors Expect From Parents:**

1. Concerns should be expressed directly to the coach/sponsor.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts should be shared well in advance.
3. An appointment should be scheduled to discuss any specific concern in regard to a coach's/sponsor's philosophy and/or expectations if there is ever a question.

Parents and coaches/sponsors should help their students learn that success is achieved in the development of a skill and should make students feel good about themselves, regardless of the outcome of any contest. As your students become involved in the programs in the Pierce City R-VI School District, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your students wish. If you, as a parent, have a concern, take time to talk with coaches in an appropriate manner, including proper time and place, being sure to follow the designated chain of command. At these times, discussion with the coach/sponsor is encouraged.

### **Communications You Should Expect From Your Student's Coach/Sponsor:**

1. Philosophy of the coach/sponsor.
2. Expectations the coach/sponsor has for your student as well as for all the students involved in the activity.
3. Location and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
5. Discipline that results in the denial/dismissal of your student's participation.

### **Appropriate Concerns To Discuss With Coaches/Sponsor:**

1. The treatment of your student mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your student improve.
3. Concerns about your student's behavior.

Sometimes it is very difficult to accept your student not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches/sponsors are professionals and they make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your student's coach/sponsor. Other things, such as those listed next, must be left to the discretion of the coach/sponsor.

**Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches/Sponsor:**

1. Playing time.
2. Team strategy.
3. Play calling.
4. Other student-athletes/participants.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach/sponsor and the parent. The Pierce City R-VI School District believes it is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. Everyone involved is expected to be respectful, to recognize and show appreciation for the other's role, and to reinforce the school's "Student Handbook" plus the policies and procedures as outlined in this Athletic/Activities Handbook. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

- Call to set up an appointment with the coach/sponsor.
- Please **DO NOT** attempt to confront a coach/sponsor before, during, or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach/sponsor. Meetings of this nature usually do not promote resolution.

**What Can a Parent Do if the Meeting with the Coach/Sponsor Did Not Provide a Satisfactory Resolution?**

1. Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic/Activities Director to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

*\*\*\*The rules outlined in this handbook are the minimum standards. Each coach/sponsor may impose stricter rules for their specific activities. The coach/sponsor will provide written rules to parents/students when those rules deviate from this handbook.*

Any questions or concerns regarding any of the rules/policies in this handbook should be directed to the District Athletic/Activities Director:

Matt Street  
476-2515 ext. 421  
mstreet@pcschoools.net

# PIERCE CITY ATHLETIC/ACTIVITY COMMITMENT FORM

(2016-2017)

Participants Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_ School Year \_\_\_\_\_

Please list all Athletics/Activities on the line below:

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Prior to participating in any meeting or practice sessions for any sport/activity, each athlete must:

- Successfully pass a physical examination by a registered physician or other authorized health care provider.
- The copy of such examination must be on file in the office of the Athletic/Activities Director. The physical exam is valid if issued on or after February 1 of the previous school year.
- Return the Athletic/Activity Commitment Form and Emergency Contact Form properly signed.
- Provide proof of personal health insurance. \_\_\_\_\_
- Have parent and student signature. \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Company Name/Policy #)*

As a student, participating voluntarily in a sport/activity in the Pierce City R-VI School District I verify that:

1. I have reviewed the information and understand what the Pierce City R-VI School District expects from me in regards to sportsmanship, citizenship, scholastics, and staying free from drug/alcohol/tobacco use while enrolled in this school. I understand the consequences for breaking school policy, and I will not do so while a Pierce City R-VI School district student participant. **I understand that this is a year-round commitment.** I will be responsible for all equipment issued to me throughout the season, will return such equipment at the conclusion of the season, and will pay the current replacement cost for any of the equipment not accounted for by me at the end of the season.
2. I acknowledge that I have been properly advised, cautioned, and warned by administrative and coaching personnel of the school district that I am exposing myself to the risk of injury, including but not limited to, the risk of sprains, fractures and ligament and/or cartilage damage which could result in a temporary or permanent, partial, or complete impairment in the use of my limbs; brain damage; paralysis; or even death. Having been so cautioned and warned, it is still my desire to participate in sports and to do so with full knowledge and understanding of the risk of injury.
3. I, along with my parents, certify that I have reviewed, understand, and will follow all of the school district policies in the Athletic/Activity Handbook. In order to be eligible for participation, I understand I must comply with all requirements listed.
4. I understand I must be enrolled and have passed a minimum of 3.0 units of credit the previous semester or 75% of the maximum available credit the semester prior to participate as well as being enrolled in seven credit classes the current semester of participation.

### **Citizenship/Code of Conduct Violation Consequences.**

Non-credible citizenship may result in disciplinary action. These actions may include parental contact, one-on-one conferences, extra athletic conditioning, benching, non-participation in interscholastic games, and/or a percentage of the interscholastic season withheld. **Ultimately**, removal from participation and/or the team can occur. A student shall not be considered eligible while under suspension.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

As a parent/guardian of a student participating voluntarily in interscholastic athletic/activities, I have reviewed the information, discussed it with my son/daughter, and will support the Pierce City R-VI School District in its efforts to promote good citizenship.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Please note: Coaches or sponsors may have additional policies other than what is listed in the handbook and will provide this information to each student/athlete and parent.**

**PIERCE CITY ATHLETIC/ACTIVITY EMERGENCY  
CONTACT INFORMATION**  
(2016-2017)

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

FATHER WORK #: \_\_\_\_\_ MOTHER WORK#: \_\_\_\_\_

FATHER EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ MOTHER EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT *IF* PARENT CANNOT BE REACHED:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ RELATIONSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

DOCTOR'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

HOSPITAL/CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*\*If any non-life threatening emergency occurs while your child is participating or practicing in an event conducted within the Pierce City School District, your child will be taken to the Cox Monett Hospital unless you designate a hospital preference above. If the emergency occurs outside of Pierce City R\_VI School District your child will be taken to a nearby medical facility and you will be contacted as soon as possible.*