

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Fair Play R-II School District Athletic Program. Hopefully, your decision to take advantage of this portion of our extracurricular programs will be educational, rewarding, and challenging. This handbook is given to you so that you might be more aware of the programs that are available and their interrelationships with our educational system, along with the rules and requirements of each athletic program. The athletic department encourages you to take advantage of as many programs as your time and talent will permit. We do not encourage specialization in one sport, but rather, we encourage you to experience a variety of sports, as well as other school activities. Naturally, due to conflicts in practice times, schedules, etc., some choices will have to be made by you.

In accordance with federal law, the Fair Play R-II School District is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write Dr. David Geurin, Superintendent, Title IV Coordinator, at 301 North Walnut Street, Fair Play, Missouri 65649 or call (417) 654-2231.

PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS

The intent of the Fair Play R-II School District Athletic Department is to operate a well-defined consistent program that supplements the learning process for all involved, accomplishes a definite purpose, projects a positive image to the public, and has the reputation for being well-managed. The program is committed to developing genuine sportsmanship, and fostering proper attitudes toward winning and losing contests.

The athletic department is committed to developing in student-athletes the drive for perfection, team play, and fairness. Competition provides not only tangible rewards, but also opportunities to instill intrinsic values such as self-discipline, cooperation with others, and respect for the prescribed rules. The Fair Play R-II School District Athletic Department is interested in the whole educational process of the student-athlete and promotes competitive activity as one portion of the total educational program.

Teaching student-athletes to do their best in competition is one of the life-long skills that athletics provides in an educational program. Winning is an immediate objective in athletic contests, but it is not an end in itself. Only when winning is over emphasized to the point that it results in losing sight of the educational and recreational values of competition should it be criticized. The desire to win should be used to stimulate achieving the objectives of interscholastic athletics.

The Athletic Department operates within the guidelines of the Missouri State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Missouri State High School Activities Association, the Polk County League, and the policies, rules, and regulations of the Fair Play R-II School District.

SPORTSMANSHIP

As a student-athlete of the Fair Play R-II School District, you have the responsibility for exhibiting good sportsmanship at all times. The moment you put on a school uniform, you become a representative of your student body, your school, and your community. You will receive the ingredients of good sportsmanship through the teaching, coaching, and examples of the coaching staff. So, be sure to exhibit what you learn.

A very important lesson we learn through interscholastic athletics is that by hard work and dedication we can improve. In America, we recognize we can take the ability that has been given to us and, through hard work and dedication, become anything we want to be. No one can tell you what you must be in this world. If you are willing to recognize the ability you possess and work hard, you can achieve success in athletics.

Attitude is one of the principal requirements in becoming a champion in any sport. The desire to excel, to win, and pay the price are all attributes that contribute to a winning philosophy. A winning philosophy is important, but how the game is played is important as well. Simple gestures of respect are expected: displaying good conduct, cooperating with officials, shaking hands with opponents before and after the contest, showing self-control at all times, accepting decisions and abiding by them, accepting both victory and defeat with pride and compassion, and never being boastful or bitter. Such conduct will help you and your team to portray standards of sportsmanship expected of student-athletes of Fair Play R-II School District.

Actually, interscholastic athletics are much like everyday life. America thrives on the kind of competition that has made it what it is today. You might say competition is the backbone of our great nation. Regardless of your plans in later life, whether you enter labor, management, sales, education, or whatever, you should realize there will be competition. There will be disappointments in athletics, but there will be disappointments in all of life's activities. It is how you react to these disappointments that will measure what values you have learned on the athletic field during your school playing days.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

As a student-athlete, you are in school to secure the best education you are capable of achieving. Deciding to take advantage of athletics plays a significant part in your total educational development. However, with this decision also comes certain responsibility. Keep in mind that you are in the public eye and 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 Fair Play R-II student body, and the Fair Play community.

OBJECTIVES OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

1. Strive to achieve sound citizenship and desirable social traits, including emotional control, honesty, cooperation, dependability, and respect for others and their abilities.
2. Maintain academic eligibility standards as established by the Missouri State High School Activities Association and Fair Play R-II School District.
3. Learn the spirit of hard work and sacrifice.
4. Learn to attain physical fitness through good healthy habits.
5. Learn the desire to excel to the limits of your potential.
6. Show respect for both authority and property.
7. Be willing to accept the leadership role that is instilled through the athletic program.
8. Commit to perfection, fairness, and team play.

ATHLETIC POLICY

Every student-athlete and their parents or guardians will be responsible for reading the following Fair Play R-II School District Athletic Policy. The student-athlete and his or her parents or guardians will be required to sign this copy of the document in the space provided, to indicate that they have read the athletic policies.

Student-athletes in the athletic program will be required to abide by the rules and regulations established by the Missouri State High School Activities Association and Fair Play R-II School District. This signed policy must be returned and will remain in effect for one school year.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Student-athletes will be required to abide by the rules and regulations stated in this policy as well as the other training rules specified by the coach of the particular sports activity in which they are participating.

1. Student-athletes are free to make their own selection for sports in which to try out.
2. The selection of student-athletes for a team is the job of the head coach. During preseason practice sessions, skills will be evaluated along with many other aspects of what is required of the student-athlete in that sport. Each coach will have requirements for their teams and these requirements will be made known to each person trying out.
3. A student-athlete quitting a sport activity may not participate in a new sports activity until the student-athlete has received an athletic release from the head coach of the sport being dropped and the head coach of the new sport involved accepts the student-athlete.
4. Participation in more than one sport within a season is left to the mutual agreement of the student-athlete and the head coaches involved.
5. Law Enforcement: A student who commits an act for which charges may be or have been filed by law enforcement authorities under any municipal ordinance, misdemeanor or felony statute shall not be eligible until all proceedings with the legal system have been concluded and any penalty (i.e. jail time, fine, court costs, etc.) or special condition of probation (i.e. restitution, community service, counseling, etc.) has been satisfied. Moving traffic offenses shall not affect eligibility, unless they involve drugs, alcohol, or injuries to others. After a student has completed all court appearances and penalties, and has satisfied all special conditions of probation and remains under general probation only, local school authorities shall determine eligibility. ****It is the responsibility of the student/athlete to report any legal issue pending or in-process to the head coach, athletic director and school administration.**

6. If it is necessary to be absent from practice, the student-athlete is expected to obtain permission from the head coach prior to the scheduled practice. If the student-athlete is sick, the parents should notify the coach.
7. A student-athlete who has been absent from school may not attend or practice a sport activity after school unless given permission by the athletic director/principal. In order to participate in an athletic contest, a student-athlete must attend school at least half (4 periods) of the total number of class periods on the day of an athletic contest **and have that absence excused by principal.** Extenuating circumstances will be given special consideration by the athletic director/principal.
8. In the event that truancy or suspension by a student-athlete takes place, the student-athlete will not be eligible for competition until he or she has fulfilled the disciplinary requirements established by the administration.
9. The use of alcohol, tobacco, or non-prescriptive drugs is known to be detrimental to the individual as well as the team he/she represents. Therefore, disciplinary action will be taken, which may result in the removal from the team, should you choose to use any of the above mentioned. The following discipline guidelines are suggestions and the coach along with athletic director/principal will have the ability to assign more or less at their discretion.
 - 1st Offense: Suspension from 10% of total team contests. (Example: if team has 26 games scheduled, it would be a 3 game suspension: if 20 games 2 games suspension)
 - 2nd Offense: suspension from 30% of the total team contests.
 - 3rd Offense: Removal from the team for the remainder of the season.Placement for next season is based on a conference with the player, parents, coach, athletic director, and principal.
10. Unsportsmanlike acts: Such acts during a contest resulting in ejection shall, in most cases, cause the student-athlete to be restricted from representing the school for at least the next contest. A student-athlete who commits such an act, but is not ejected may also be subject to at least a one game restriction from representing the school. Each case of this type shall be reviewed by the head coach and the athletic director/principal before a final decision is reached.
11. Student-athletes are responsible for returning all equipment (including uniforms) issued to them during their sports season. The student-athlete will be financially responsible for any lost equipment. No student-athlete will receive an athletic award until all equipment is returned and all financial obligations have been paid. No further equipment (including uniforms) will be issued until equipment has been returned from the previous sport played. If athletes are still participating in a sport that completes its season following high school

graduation, the athlete must return equipment (including uniforms) to the coach prior to graduation. The coach will return and collect needed equipment for any post-graduation contests.

12. Due process: Student-athletes shall have the opportunity to express their side of any incident in which they may be involved. If the student-athlete is dissatisfied with any decisions, they have the right to appeal through the following channels:
 - A. Head Coach
 - B. Athletic Director/Building Principal
 - C. Superintendent
 - D. Board of EducationAppeals to the Superintendent level or above are to be in writing and submitted within 10 days of the previous decision. The body to which the appeal is made shall be within 10 days of receipt of the appeal, establishing a hearing date.
13. All student-athletes will be transported to and from respective games, meets, etc., via school transportation. Parents or guardians may transport their own student-athlete home from a school activity after signing out the athlete with a coach. A student-athlete being transported home by another parent, other than their own, must have prior arrangements made between the parent, activity sponsor/coach or building principal/athletic director or administrator on duty at the game. The parents of the student will assume liability at this time.
14. Before a student may participate in any athletic activity in the Fair Play R-II School District, they must have on file in the office the following forms: (1) Missouri State High School Activities Association parental participation form, (2) physical exam form, (3) insurance information form, (the school district provides a minimum coverage policy on all student-athletes) and (4) a signed copy of the Fair Play R-II School District Athletic Policy.
15. When athletes or parents need to submit payment for items associated with a given sport (uniform items, fundraiser money, lost item payment etc.), a check payable to Fair Play Schools should be used for payment. Please do not submit checks payable to school staff or send cash. This provides better accounting practice, provides proof of payment and helps avoid placing sponsor/staff in positions of liability. These instances should be rare, but this policy helps protect everyone.
16. Communication with Coaching Staff:

Due to the nature of competition and the heightened level of emotion that often accompanies such competition, communication between the parents/guardians, siblings or other interested parties in regard to players, playing time and coaching strategy will not occur following a contest. If a meeting is desired with a coach, it should be pre-arranged with the coach and/or Athletic Director and will occur no sooner than the day following the contest. The meeting may include in attendance the Athletic Director and/or member of school administration if needed or desired.

CONFERENCE AFFILIATION

Polk County League

CONFERENCE MEMBER SCHOOLS

Dadeville
Fair Play
Halfway
Hermitage
Humansville
Macks Creek
Walnut Grove
Weaubleau
Wheatland

SPORTS OFFERED

FALL

H.S. Cross Country
H.S. Softball

J.H. Basketball - Boys & Girls
J.H. Cheerleading

WINTER

H.S. Basketball – Boys & Girls
H.S. Cheerleading

SPRING

H.S. Baseball

J.H./H.S. Track

COACHING ASSIGNMENTS

Lucas Vert

JH/HS Basketball Head Coach - Baseball Head Coach

Thomas Chabreck

Cross Country - Boys & Girls Varsity Head Coach

Melony Harris

Cheerleading - Junior High & High School Head Coach

Alex Parke

JH/HS Basketball Assistant Coach

Mark Vert

Softball/Girls Basketball Head Coach - Baseball Assistant Coach

Guy Frye

HS/JH Track – Head Coach

Meghaan Mayfield

Softball and HS Girls Basketball - Assistant Coach

ATHLETIC LETTERING REQUIREMENTS

Varsity Letter

The student-athlete must meet all letter requirements as set forth by the head coach of a said sport.

Each head coach will hand out to the student-athletes at the beginning of the sport season the requirements for lettering in that particular sport.

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Adopted by the Fair Play Board of Education

1. Citizenship

You must be a creditable citizen. Creditable citizens are those students whose conduct, both in school and out of school, will not reflect discredit upon themselves or their school.

2. Extra-Curricular Activities

Any activity the school provides beyond the regular class schedule from 7:55 a.m. – 3:25 p.m. is considered an extracurricular activity. All students representing Fair Play Junior High School and Fair Play Junior High School in extracurricular activities must meet the academic qualification adopted by the Board of Education. In addition to athletics, this includes representation of a class, such as class officers, student council representatives, Homecoming and Black Walnut Festival candidates and any other positions deemed appropriated by the High School Principal.

3. Academic Eligibility Policy

Fair Play Junior and Senior High School eligibility requirements for extracurricular activities, adopted by the Fair Play Board of Education set academic guidelines for students to meet in order to participate in extracurricular activities. In order to be academically eligible a student must maintain an average of 70% or better in 5 of their 7 classes. Of the other 2 grades, no more than 1 can be a failing grade. For example, 5 grades of C and 2 F's will be considered ineligible. Fair Play Junior and Senior High School will use a 3-week grading period to determine eligibility.

4. Academic Ineligibility

If a student is considered to be academically ineligible at the end of a 3-week grading period, the student will not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities until the next 3-week grade check showing the student's grades are at or above the eligibility guidelines. A student will have the opportunity to be removed from the ineligible list and begin participation again after a 1-week period if they attend all three tutoring sessions of that week and request a grade recheck. If the student meets all eligibility requirements, reinstatement of eligibility occurs on the last day of the school week after 3:15 pm. The grade recheck

must be verified by the H.S. Principal. A student who falls below the academic eligibility guidelines will not be allowed to participate for a minimum of 1 week.

5. Transferring Schools

If you transfer schools and your parents do not move into the district of your new school, you will be ineligible for 365 days, unless you meet one of the exceptions listed in the MSHSAA Residence/Transfer Rules. If you move with your parents to your new school district, you will be eligible at your new

school provided you were eligible in all other respects at your former school. A student shall not be eligible to represent two different schools in the

MSHSAA

state tournament series in the same sport during the same season. You and your parents must move to the new residence at the same time. Always check with your school principal or athletic administrator before you transfer to determine how it will affect your eligibility.

6. **Participation Limits**

Grades 9-12

You are eligible to participate in any sport for a maximum of four seasons. Any part of a contest played during a season counts as a season of participation. Your eligibility to participate in high school activities begins when you first enter the ninth grade and lasts for the next succeeding four consecutive years (eight consecutive semesters).

Grades 7-8

You are eligible for only your first two semesters of attendance in the 7th grade and for only your first two semesters in the 8th grade. You are not eligible to compete with or against students enrolled in the tenth grade or above when you are enrolled in either seventh or eighth grade. NOTE: Check with your school principal for exceptions to this rule if you are ineligible for your grade level because of age.

7. **Entering School**

You must enter school within the first 11 days of the semester in order to be eligible.

8. **Amateur & Awards Standards**

After entering a member school, you will become ineligible in the sport concerned if you receive cash for participating in an athletic contest. This restriction applies to all sports in which MSHSAA member schools conduct interscholastic programs. (Merchandise received shall not exceed \$250 suggested retail price.) You may accept awards that are symbolic in nature, such as medals, ribbons, trophies, plaques, etc. for participating in a school athletic program. You may accept awards that are merchandise and such award shall not exceed \$250 in the suggested manufacturer's retail price. Awards as described above presented by a person or group other than your school, must be approved in advance by your school principal and the suggested manufacturer's retail price of a merchandise award shall not exceed \$250. You may accept awards for participating in nonschool sponsored athletic competition only if the awards are symbolic in nature or the merchandise item does not exceed \$250 in suggested retail value.

9. Age Limits
Grades 9-12

If you reach 19 years of age prior to July 1, you will be ineligible the next school year. Over-aged eighth graders may move up to the senior high team to have eight semesters of eligibility.

Grades 7-8

In order to participate on or against teams made up of only seventh-graders, you must not have reached 14 years of age prior to July 1 preceding the opening of school. In order to participate on or against teams made up of only eighth-graders, you must not have reached 15 years of age prior to July 1 preceding the opening of school. In order to participate on or against teams made up of only ninth-graders, you must not have reached 16 years of age prior to July 1 preceding the opening of school. However, you may participate with the next higher grade when you no longer meet the age limit for your grade. NOTE: Check with your school principal or athletic administrator for options available to you if you are ineligible for your grade level because of age.

10. Playing Under A False Name

If you compete under an assumed or false name, you immediately become ineligible.

11. Graduated Students

You will be ineligible to participate after graduation from a senior high school. Students who are granted an early release after their junior year are ineligible for further participation. NOTE: You are eligible to participate in conference, district, and/or state-level events that extend beyond the date of your school's graduation at the end of the spring semester of your senior year, based on current year's event scheduling.

12. Non-school Competition

You may not practice for, or participate with, a non-school team or in any organized non-school athletic competition and for your school team in the same sport during the same season. You may participate on a school team and a nonschool team in different sports during the same season; however, you may not practice for the non-school team or participate in organized non-school athletic competition on the same day that you practice with or participate for the school team without prior approval of your school administrator. You must receive approval in advance from your school principal in order to miss school time to practice for, travel to, or compete in organized nonschool athletic competition. You may not play at any time on an organized non-school basketball, football, or volleyball team made up only of members of your school team unless:

- a) The teams are nontraditional as defined in 235.2-b with limits to out of season, or b) during the summer months when there is no limit on team rosters/lineups (235.2-b)

You will become ineligible in any sport in which you play as a member of a junior college, college or university team. You may participate in international competition during the school year, however the competition must meet the established criteria published in the MSHSAA Official Handbook and must be approved in advance by the MSHSAA Board of Directors. Before you join a non-school team or enter any non-school competitive athletic event, your school principal, or athletic administrator should be consulted to make certain these standards are met.

13. College Auditions & Tryouts

You may participate in a college tryout, audition, or evaluation event for a specific sport outside the school season of the sport concerned (MSHSAA By-Law 242). You may not miss school time to travel or participate in the event unless your absence is approved in advance by the school administrator. You may not miss an MSHSAA sponsored postseason athletic event to participate in or travel to and from the event. See your administrator before agreeing to attend any such events.

14. All-Star Games

You may not compete in an all-star game or contest before you complete your eligibility in each high school sport. Participation in an all-star game or contest before ending your high school eligibility will result in you becoming ineligible to participate in any high school sport. A senior with no high school eligibility remaining for a specific sport may participate in one all-star game for that sport during the school year. See your administrator before agreeing to play. An all-star event is one in which an individual is invited to participate due to his or her high school achievements.

15. Recruiting of Athletes

You will be ineligible for your high school career at a school if you are influenced by a person or persons to attend upon promotion or transfer schools for athletic or activity purposes. You may, however, return to your original school and be ineligible for just 365 days.

16. Transfer For Athletic Reasons

You shall become ineligible for 365 days if you transfer to another school for athletic reasons, as defined in MSHSAA By-Law 238.

17. Sports Camps & Clinics

You may attend a specialized summer athletic camp(s)/clinic(s) where you receive instruction or coaching from a member of your school's coaching staff for a maximum of two calendar weeks in any one sport. A calendar week for any sports camp is defined as any seven consecutive days and any

consecutive grouping of days shall be counted as one calendar week. You may attend a nonschool sponsored summer specialized sports camp(s) or group instruction for as long as you wish where you do not receive instruction or coaching from a member of your school's coaching staff. You may attend a nonschool sponsored specialized sports camp(s) or group instruction during the school year provided it does not result in any loss of school time; attendance does not occur within 14 days of the start of the school sport season for the sport concerned; it is not a team camp; and no member of the coaching staff of the school you attend or will attend the following year is involved in any way. You or your parents must pay all camp/clinic fees, tuition and other related expenses. A scholarship, waiver of fees or a payment of travel expenses shall result in the loss of your eligibility. Before attending any specialized athletic camp(s)/clinic(s) or group sport instruction, you should consult with your school principal or athletic administrator to make sure it meets the criteria published in the MSHSAA Official Handbook.

18. Sportsmanship

If you should commit an unsportsmanlike act while participating in an event, you could become ineligible. If your conduct as a spectator is found to be unsportsmanlike, you could be barred from attending any further high school contests. The unsportsmanlike conduct of any spectator, regardless of age, could cause that spectator to be barred from attending school athletic contests.

19. Practice Attendance

While the coaching staff, administration and school board recognize there are times when practices and other scheduled events must be missed (ie. recognition of parents visitation rights), all parties involved must understand the importance of conditioning and instruction to team preparation, team dynamic and ultimately

team success. If practices and/or other structured activities are missed during these times, extra conditioning and instruction may be undertaken to preserve the athlete's level of conditioning and skill so the outcome of the team is not compromised. This is not punishment, but rather an opportunity for the athlete to maintain their physical stamina, skill level and knowledge base regarding plays and other instruction. To this end, athletes cannot be guaranteed playing time or starting role due to missing needed conditioning and/or practice.

ATHLETIC POLICY SIGNATURE SHEET
Fair Play R-II School District
2023-2024 School Year

Sport(s): _____

This application to represent my school in interscholastic athletics is entirely voluntary on my part and is made with the understanding that I have studied the eligibility standards that I must meet to represent my school and that I have not violated any of them.

I, _____, as a student-athlete have read and understand all rules and policies set forth in the pages of this handbook, and agree to abide by said rules and policies.

Signature of Student-Athlete

Date

I, as a parent or guardian of _____, have read the rules and policies set forth for athletic participation at Fair Play R-II School District, and give my son or daughter permission to participate under these conditions. I will do my part in seeing that he or she follows and abides by these rules and policies.

Signature of Parent or Guardian #1

Signature of Parent or Guardian #2

Date