

Dear Parents:

The purpose of this handbook is to help you better understand the objectives of our athletic program. The ultimate objective is to provide educational and recreational experiences, which help to make a better person of each athlete and of each student spectator.

We believe that the experience of good athletic training will aid athletes to develop into better persons. For athletes to develop to their full potential, training rules must be followed. This handbook outlines the rules for the Fayette R-III School District Athletic Program. Athletes are subject to these rules during the academic year. Athletes who violate the rules during the school year are subject to disciplinary action as outlined in this handbook. Students are expected to follow the Fayette and Missouri State High School Activities Association citizenship standards.

Your support will help us to provide even better educational experiences for our athletes and students through our athletic program.

Thank you, and have a great season,

**Geoff Moorehead, Athletic Director
Fayette School District**

AFTER READING THE ATHLETIC HANDBOOK, IF YOU DESIRE YOUR SON/DAUGHTER TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR ATHLETIC PROGRAM, PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THE BACK PAGE TO THE APPROPRIATE COACH.

Interscholastic athletics is recognized as an integral part of the secondary school's educational program. The responsibility for the control and regulation of the school's athletic program rests with the Board of Education. The responsibility for administering the athletic program of the school, however, is delegated to the high school principal and athletic director.

Fayette R-III School District is committed to the belief that participation in interscholastic sports is a PRIVILEGE, not a right that requires individual responsibility by the athlete to the team, school, and community. Fayette R-III is a member of the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) and shall be regulated by the code of this association, which has been established by a vote of all member schools.

Athletic standards, rules, and policies will start at the beginning of the fall sports season and-or the academic year and end the last day of school unless the sport is a spring sport that extends into post season play, which could extend after the school year is over.

Student athletes are subject to the Fayette R-III District's discipline policy, as outlined in the student handbook, as well as specific rules in this athletic handbook. Copies of the student handbook may be obtained in the principal's office at Fayette High School/Clark Middle School.

Athletes will be required to follow other specific rules established by individual coaches.

The purpose of this section of the athletic handbook is to familiarize the student athlete with some of the responsibilities associated with interscholastic athletics at the Fayette School District. This section is intended to serve as a source of information and guide for athletes and their parents.

Fayette School District Athletic Program Philosophy

The philosophy of the Fayette School District Athletic Program shall be based on the following:

- 1. Fundamentals are to be taught and emphasized in each sport.**
- 2. Conditioning of all athletes for each sport is to be emphasized through a rigorous program.**
- 3. A written plan for each sport will serve as a basis for the organization of daily practices.**
- 4. A positive approach to directing the athletic program is to be displayed by all coaches in his/her dealing with athletes to foster the spirit of teamwork and cooperation among athletes.**
- 5. Sportsmanship is to be emphasized by all coaches through teaching and by setting an example.**

ATHLETIC POLICIES

1. Insurance

Some type of insurance must cover students participating in interscholastic sports. The Physical form must verify that the student is covered by insurance and the form is to be signed by the parents.

2. Medical Examination

No student is to participate in a practice or game until a doctor has examined him/her and the director of athletics or coach has received the physical examination form. The physical examination must be administered on or after February 1, of the previous school year to be valid. Students must obtain parental permission before being allowed to engage in interscholastic competition.

3. Citizenship

Athletes must be creditable school citizens. Creditable school citizens are those students whose conduct both in school and out of school will not reflect discredit upon themselves or their school. Athletes who continually violate school rules are subject to suspension from participating in sports. Those athletes who misbehave in such a way as to bring discredit to the school as part of the activities involved in athletic competition are subject to suspension from participating in sports. (Examples would be, but not limited to, stealing from a restaurant when a team stops to eat, destroying property in a motel when a team stays over for competition, defacing or destroying property of an opposing school.)

If an athlete is arrested for a misdemeanor or a felony, the athlete will be allowed to represent the school in interscholastic activities pending the legal outcome of the case. However, if there is admission of guilt by the athlete or if, after reviewing the case, school officials feel there is strong evidence that indicates probable guilt, then the school may restrict the athlete from participation before the legal outcome of the case. Decisions related to penalties will be made jointly by the administration and head coach.

4. Alcohol/Drugs/Tobacco

Possession and/or use of alcohol/illegal drugs or tobacco in any form, on or off school property, by a team member will result in:

1st Offense

- A. Parents or Guardian notification by head coach.
- B. Appropriate law enforcement agency shall be contacted if deemed necessary by the building principal.
- C. Suspension from athletic competition for a competitive 2-week period or four (4) competitions, whichever comes first. Athletes will be required to practice.

2nd Offense

- A. Parents or Guardian notified by head coach.
- B. Appropriate law enforcement agency shall be contacted if deemed necessary by the building principal
- C. Terminated from the team and suspended from all athletic competition for a competitive eight (8) week period.

3rd Offense

- A. Parents or Guardian notified by head coach.
- B. Appropriate law enforcement agency shall be contacted if deemed necessary by the building principal
- C. Terminated from the team and suspended from all athletic competition 365 days.

5. Defacing or Destroying Property

Any athlete who defaces or destroys property of the Fayette R-III School District will be subject to the following actions.

1st Offense

- A. Parents or Guardian notified by the building principal or head coach.
- B. Depending on the nature and extent of the defacement or damages, the appropriate law enforcement agency shall be contacted if deemed necessary by the building principal.
- C. Depending on the nature and extent of the defacement or damages, the athlete is subject to discipline, suspension or dismissal by the coaches/athletic director/building principal.

2nd Offense

- A. Parents or Guardian notified by the head coach.**
- B. Depending on the nature and extent of the defacement or damages, the appropriate law enforcement agency shall be contacted if deemed necessary by the building principal.**
- C. Termination from the team and suspension from all athletic competition for a competitive eight (8) week period.**

3rd Offense

- A. Parents or Guardian notified by head coach.**
- B. Appropriate law enforcement agency shall be contacted if deemed necessary by the building principal**
- C. Terminated from the team and suspended from all athletic competition 365 days.**

6. Hearsay

Athletic coaches will not accept information about rule infractions by athletes from any party or parties other than Fayette R-III administration and faculty members or law enforcement officers.

When a coach is informed by an administrator, a faculty member, or law enforcement officer, that a team member has violated stated athletic rules, the informant must provide a written and signed statement about the rule infraction. However, if there is admission of guilt by the athlete of committing a rule infraction the head coach will review the situation with the athletic director and principal for possible disciplinary action.

7. Student Suspensions

Students will be suspended from participating in extracurricular activities for the following reasons. They will be required to participate in practice.

- A. Failing to pass a minimum of 3.0 units of credit per semester. The athlete will be ineligible to compete the next semester.**
- B. Failing to attend Friday detentions.**
- C. While serving in school or out of school suspensions.**

8. Attendance at school, practices, and competitions

All athletes are expected to attend all practices in order to participate in interscholastic contests/competition. The coach may excuse athletes from practice or competition for legitimate reasons or absences. An unexcused absence from practice will result in disciplinary action by the coach. A second unexcused absence from practice will result in an athlete being dismissed from the team.

An unexcused absence from a competition will result in an athlete being dismissed from the team. The head coach/athletic director/building principal will determine if an absence from practice or competition is excused or unexcused.

Examples of an excused absence would include, but not be limited to: a death in the family, illness or injury to the athlete, school sponsored activities approved in advance by the principal, career days, family trips approved in advance by the athletic director/building principal.

Examples of an unexcused absence would include, but not be limited to: truancy from school, work-related absences, and skip days. A student must be in attendance the entire school day to be eligible to participate in and/or attend an activity that night unless the administrator approves the absence. If the student is absent the day after an activity, participation in the next activity could be jeopardized unless the administrator excuses the absence. If the absence from school occurs on a Friday, the student will be ineligible to participate in weekend activities, unless the administrator excuses the absence.

9. Unsportsmanlike Acts

Such acts, which are malicious in nature during a contest resulting in ejection, shall cause the athlete to be ineligible to represent the school for at least the next contest.

An athlete who commits such an act, but is not ejected may also be subject to restrictions from representing the school. Each case of this type is to be reviewed by the head coach, athletic director, and principal before a final decision is reached. Cheerleaders will be punished based on sport in season. Typically, the following punishments will be enforced:

Baseball/Softball- 1 game
Basketball- 4 consecutive quarters
Football- 2 quarters
Golf- 1 meet
Track- 1 meet

10. Conditioning

Usually the physical condition of an athlete affects the outcome of athletic competition. An athlete must be in good condition to perform at his/her maximum potential. Proper diet and rest are essentials in conditioning of an athlete. The Missouri State High School Activities Association requires a minimum number of 14 practices on separate days before an athlete is eligible to participate in a contest. This requirement shall be met if a student has been a member of another school sports squad immediately preceding the sport season, has been actively practicing with the sport squad, has had fourteen days of physical conditioning and begins physical conditioning practice with the new sport squad with no more than seven calendar days having passed between the two sports before beginning practice.

11. Athletic Injuries and Care

All injuries must be reported to the supervising coach immediately. Please notify the coach if it is necessary to consult a physician. Should an injury be discovered after the athlete has returned home, the coach should be contacted at once.

12. Athletic Equipment

All athletes are responsible for the preservation of the school's athletic equipment. Equipment issued to athletes must be returned to the coach at the end of the season. Athletes will be held financially responsible for any lost or misplaced equipment. Deliberate mutilation of school property or equipment will be charged to the athlete. Equipment includes any uniforms or clothing, which is issued by the coach for the purpose of participation in a particular sport. Athletes not returning school issued equipment or not paying for lost or damaged equipment will not be allowed to participate in any further interscholastic competition at Fayette High School. Senior athletes will not receive graduation diplomas until equipment obligations are met.

13. Transportation

Bus service is provided to all athletes for all away games and meets. Students are to ride to and from athletic contests on transportation provided by the school. An exception will be made when the parents contact the principal in advance of the contest or the coach immediately following a contest to request permission for their child to ride with them. For a student to be allowed to ride home with his/her parents from a contest the parents must contact the coach in person immediately following the contest to verify that the student is riding home with them. In most cases students who drive themselves to an away activity will not be permitted to participate in that activity. When male and female athletes share the same bus they shall be seated separately.

14. Due Process

Any athlete who is found to have violated regulations has the right to due process. Following are procedures to ensure student athletes receive just treatment.

- A. The athlete shall be given oral or written notice of the charges against him/her.**
- B. If the athlete denies the charges, he/she shall be given an oral or written explanation of the facts, which form the basis of the disciplinary action.**
- C. The athlete shall be given an opportunity to present his/her version of the incident before judgment or disciplinary action is rendered. The athlete has the right to bring forward witnesses on his/her behalf.**
- D. The head coach will provide notification to the parents/guardian or others having custodial care of the athlete, of the administrator's action and the reasons for such action.**
- E. The Athletic Director will make written documentation of events and proceedings for the parents or guardian and file a copy of the documentation in the athlete's student folder.**
- F. If the athlete is dissatisfied with the decision made by the principal and athletic director, he/she has the right to appeal to the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education. Appeals are to be in writing and submitted within 10 days of the previous decision. The body to which the appeal is made will, within 10 days of the receipt of the appeal, establish a hearing date.**

Each student is responsible to notify the school of any and all situations that would affect his/her eligibility under the above standards. If the student does not notify the school of the situation prior to the school's discovery, then the student shall be ineligible for up to 365 days from discovery, pending review by the MSHSAA Board of Directors.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

To be eligible for extracurricular activities sponsored by the Missouri State High School Activities Association students in grades nine through twelve must meet the following standards: The student shall have earned, the preceding semester of attendance, a minimum of 3.0 units of credit or have earned credit in 80% of the maximum allowable classes in which a student can be enrolled in the semester, whichever is greater, or a student must have made standard progress for his or her level the preceding semester in a special education program for the handicapped approved by the Missouri State Department of Education which, though un-graded, enrolls pupils of equivalent age.

To be eligible for extracurricular activities, the Fayette School Board has adopted the following policy:

Regarding academic probation any student who receives 2 D's or 1 F will be placed in an 8th hour focused study hall to address academic improvement and will lose privileges to attend and participate in extra-curricular activities for 10 days. At the end of the 10 day probationary period, if the students grades have improved (raised to the next highest grade), privileges to attend and participate in extra-curricula's will be re-instated. If the students grades have not improved as indicated, he/she will remain on probation until the required improvement occurs. The student progress will continue to be assessed every 10 days.

Summer school courses may count toward maintaining academic eligibility provided the credit earned for each course is placed on the school transcript, such course(s) must count toward meeting graduation/promotion standards, and no more than one credit earned in summer school shall count toward maintaining academic eligibility.

No electives may be counted toward this requirement of academic eligibility.

Transfer students will be eligible the first semester of their transfer to Fayette R-III High School if they meet the state standards and the eligibility standards of the school of transfer.

GUIDELINES FOR MINIMUM LETTERING STANDARDS

- 1. Athletes should not receive a letter in their first year of participation in a sport unless they have significantly participated in contests at times when the outcome was still undetermined. That is a first-year athlete should not letter if his/her only varsity experience was in the waning moments of lopsided victory or defeat.**
- 2. Athletes whose seasons are ended prematurely should not letter unless they continue to attend practice on a regular basis. For example, a football player who broke his leg in October and did not complete the rest of the season should not letter unless he continued to come to practice and attend games to encourage his teammates. In exceptional cases, perhaps an “honorary letter” could be awarded if the athlete was unable to meet these guidelines.**
- 3. An “F” signifies that an individual is a varsity athlete. Participants whose only competition is on a junior varsity level should not letter except under special circumstances. Example of exceptions might be a senior (but not if it was his/her first season in the sport), or for an athlete who has participated three or more seasons.**
- 4. Manager and trainer letters should only be awarded to full-time managers and trainers who attend practice and competitions regularly.**
- 5. Athletes who are academically ineligible at the beginning of a season, or who join the squad late, should be required to meet the same lettering standards as other athletes. These students should receive no special consideration.**
- 6. Individuals must finish the season, (unless injured), be a good school citizen, turn in all checked out equipment, and be recommended by the coach to qualify for a letter.**
- 7. Unless excused under certain circumstances by the head coach, athletes must attend the end of the sports season banquets in order to letter.**
- 8. Letterman who terminate their participation in a sport at any time or non-letterman who terminate their participation in a sport after the first contest of a season, shall not be eligible to begin another sport until the previous season ends. Athletic participation for these students will be limited to lifting weights.**

I have read the handbook and will abide by the rules and regulations established by the Fayette R-III School District.

Athlete's Signature

Date

Parent's Signature

Date