

JASPER SCHOOL

DISTRICT

ATHLETIC

HANDBOOK

The Jasper School District Athletic Handbook is presented to you because you have indicated a desire to participate in the athletic programs. It serves as an information guide for all concerned parents who have expressed a willingness to permit their child to participate. Participation in interscholastic sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences that assist students in personal growth and maturation.

As educators, coaches, and administrators, our goal is to organize and administer a broad-based athletic program that will allow students with athletic interest an opportunity for safe participation in the sports of their choice. Our programs will provide experiences that enhance each student's growth and maturity academically, socially, and physically. The Jasper School District athletic program will also serve as a source of pride for participants, our school district, and our community.

Our staff is committed to providing;

1. An opportunity to earn a roster position through a tryout process.
2. Adequate equipment and facilities.
3. Well trained coaches.
4. Equalized competition.
5. An atmosphere of fairness and sportsmanship through competition.

Likewise, as a student-athlete, you must commit to a standard of conduct and effort that exemplifies the fulfillment of certain responsibilities and expectations of the proud tradition of the Jasper School District. While this handbook merely serves as an overview and does not attempt to cover every situation that could arise, it is our hope

that through this information guide our students and parents will have a better understanding of these responsibilities.

UNDERSTANDING OF RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THIS HANDBOOK

We hope that the parents and athletes understand the rules and regulations covered in this handbook. If a rule or regulation is broken and dismissal from a team is necessary, then the parent will be notified why the dismissal took place. It should be understood that the coach has the final say and is the final authority regarding dismissal from a team.

Any athlete or family members of an athlete that are removed from an athletic event by an official, police or administrator is subject to suspension by the administration from all athletic events for the remainder of that season or that year.

Any fan that disrupts an athletic event is subject to suspension from all athletic events for the remainder of that season or that year.

PHILOSOPHY OF THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

The philosophy of the Jasper School District Athletic Department is to maintain a broad-based program that will afford all students with athletic interest an opportunity for safe participation in the sports of their choice. The coaches shall deal with the athletes with firmness and fairness in order to establish the leadership they respect and admire.

GOAL OF THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

The student athlete will develop the skills necessary to become independent problem solving adults and become a positive influence in society, not just a good athlete.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

Remember that as an athlete you are not eligible to participate in any sport until the following items have been completed:

1. **Physical examination** completed and on file in athletic office by the first day of practice as established by the coach.
2. Completed **Emergency Consent Authorization** Form.
3. Completed **Consent for Drug Testing Form**.
4. Signed **confirmation and consent forms** from Athletic Handbook.
5. All **eligibility requirements** have been satisfied as established by the Arkansas Activities Association.
6. Completed **Concussion Fact Sheet** from the Arkansas Activities Association.

ATHLETES RESPONSIBILITIES

1. **In the classroom:** In the academic area, the athlete is expected to become a good student. A good student does not mean all "A's". A good student means doing the best in academics.
2. **Practice & Games:** The athlete is expected to attend regardless of holidays, job commitment, social activities or week-ends.
3. **Absences:** An athlete should consult his/her coach before missing practice. Missing practice or an event without good reason will be dealt with severely. An athlete missing for any reason is expected to make up the practice session. Disciplinary action will be at the discretion of the coach.
4. **School Attendance:** Students who miss school or check out on the day of an athletic event will not be allowed to participate unless they missed for an emergency or the building principal excused their absence.

5. **Out of School and In School Suspension:** If an athlete is suspended from school or is assigned to In School Suspension, they may not attend, play, or practice in any school extracurricular activity and no coach or school personnel will be allowed to work them out until they have completed their suspension.
6. **Care and Responsibility for Equipment:** Equipment should be turned in within one week following the end of the season. An athlete is financially responsible for all equipment checked out to him/her. The cost of destroyed/lost equipment will be replacement costs. An athlete must treat school equipment and facilities as though it were his/her personal property. It should never be abused. If an athlete is involved in the theft of school equipment, he/she could be dismissed from the team.
7. **Student Athletes and Social Networking:** As a student-athlete, one is a representative of the school and community and always in the public eye. The Athletic Department advises student-athletes to exercise extreme caution in their use of social networking (i.e.; Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, YouTube, etc.). Student-athletes should not post inappropriate information or pictures on social networking websites that damage or embarrass individuals, teams, the Athletic Department or the school.

Student-athletes should keep the following information in mind before participating in social networking:

- Always represent oneself and one's school respectfully.
- Once any text, photo, tweets, or video is placed online, it is completely out of your control, regardless of whether you limit access to your page. Assume that everything posted is permanent.

- Do not post information, photos, tweets or other items online that could embarrass you, your family, your team, the athletic department or school. This includes information, photos, tweets and items that may be posted by others on their page or on your webpage.

- Do not post disrespectful comments or engage in inappropriate behavior such as the following:
 - o Derogatory or defamatory language;
 - o Derogatory or defamatory comments about teammates, coaches, officials, opponents, athletics or the school.

Student–athletes could face disciplinary action and even dismissal for violation of school, team, athletic department or Arkansas Activities Association policy or rules.

8. Bullying and Hazing: Bullying and hazing of any kind will not be tolerated. (Refer to the Jasper School District Handbook.)

9. Proper Conduct and Sportsmanship: Proper conduct and good sportsmanship are expected at all times. Athletes should be good role models both in and out of the classroom. As ambassadors of Jasper School District, student-athletes and coaches should strive to represent the very best spirit and tradition of athletics. Remember that athletes not only represent oneself, but one’s teammates, coaches, the entire athletic department, the school and community. Student-athletes shall exemplify good sportsmanship on and off the field of play, during pre- and post-game comments to the media, and when traveling and participating at other institutions. Profanity, derogatory comments or other intimidating actions directed at officials, student-athletes, coaches or team representatives will not be tolerated. Dress code for games is the same as handbook or established by the coach of that sport.

10. **Any athlete charged with a felony or arrested will automatically be suspended from that sport and will not be allowed to try out or practice with another sport until they have been cleared of all charges.**

TEAM RESPONSIBILITY

- Common goals and group loyalties.
- Subordination of self-interest to team values.
- Self-discipline and personal sacrifice for team goals.

The coach and athletic director are primarily responsible for implementing these goals and standards. No student is obligated to take part in athletics. Athletics is a privilege, not a right. Since it is a privilege, the coach should have authority to revoke the privilege, when rules are broken. Each athlete will realize that the school wishes the athlete to reach his/her very best achievement level, both in life and in interscholastic athletics.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Under our athletic philosophy, each head coach has the authority to create team rules that are specific to his or her sport; however, there are several rules and policies that are universal. The following is a listing of some important rules and policies of our athletic department that student athletes and their parents should understand.

1. Disciplinary action taken toward students who are found to be in violation of the school drug policy, will follow the disciplinary actions and procedures set forth in the Jasper School Handbook.
2. Disciplinary action taken toward students who are involved with controlled substances, but not at school or while participating in a school activity and are involved in extracurricular activities.

A. Alcohol/Drugs

1. First violation: The athlete will be suspended from 20% of the games or activities scheduled. Parents will be notified. There must be substantial proof of wrong doings.
2. Second violation: The athlete will be suspended from 50% of games or activities scheduled. Parents will be notified. There must be substantial proof of wrong doings. Athletes will also be required to visit with a trained professional (school counselor, church counselor, youth minister, pastor, etc.) or attend an alcohol/drug abuse awareness program, which shall be approved through the A.D.'s office.
3. Third violation: The athlete will be dismissed from ALL sports and activities for one calendar year – starting with the date of the incident.
4. Fourth violation: The athlete will be dismissed indefinitely from ALL sports and activities for the remainder of their enrollment in the Jasper School District.

B. Tobacco (including smokeless)

If infraction occurs on school property, the policies and procedures set forth in the handbook, will be the policies and procedures followed.

If the infraction occurs while not at school or while participating in a school activity and are involved in extracurricular activities:

1. First violation: the athlete will be suspended from 10% of the games or activities scheduled. Parents will be notified.
2. Second violation: The athlete will be suspended from 20% of the games or activities scheduled. Parents will be notified. He/she will also be required to attend a tobacco awareness program set up through the school.

3. Third violation: The athlete will be suspended from 30% of the games or activities scheduled. He/she will also be required to attend a more in-depth tobacco awareness programs as set up through the coach.
4. Fourth violation: The athlete will be suspended from 40% of the games or activities scheduled. Parents will be notified. The athlete must repeat the tobacco awareness program. (Continue with 10% more games suspended with each repeated offense.)

** Note: In all cases of suspensions, if the athlete is participating in a sport in-season, the suspension will take place immediately. If the athlete's sport is not in-season, the suspension will begin at the start of their next sport. If the athlete participates in more than one sport or activity, he/she will not be penalized twice for the one offense. If the athlete is involved in 2 sports simultaneously (example soccer and track), the % of games suspended will be divided between both sports. However, if the number of games remaining is under the % of games suspended, the suspension will carry over to the next sport. If another violation occurs during the second sport/activity season, this would count as their second violation.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES

1. Athletic Participation

- Students will be encouraged by the coaching staff to participate in any sport they desire.
- The head coach in each sport has complete discretion as to who plays, how long they play, and under what circumstances they play or do not play.
- Try-outs: Sports that are limited in number of participants will conduct try-outs based on ability, potential and grade level. Selection of the team will be at the discretion of the coach.

2. Dropping And Transferring Sports

- Student who drops a sport may not rejoin the team until the next tryout period.

(Exceptions will be granted for reasons deemed worthy of appeal by the Athletic Director)

- An athlete who quits a sport is not allowed to participate in another sport without the consent of both coaches involved or until the season of the sport he/she quit has ended.

3. Travel

- All athletes must travel to and from athletic contests in transportation provided by the athletic department or must have **prior approval** by their coach and signed parental consent on approved form before leaving for the event.
- Athletes will remain with their squad and under the supervision of their coach when attending away games or events.
- All regular school bus rules will be followed, including those pertaining to food, noise, remaining in seats, and care and respect for equipment.

4. Injuries/Illness Notification

- In effort to provide safe participation in all athletic activities, it is of the utmost importance that our coaches and training staff be informed of all injuries or illnesses no matter how minor. Please provide timely notice of any doctor's orders or recommendations pertaining to participation. If a doctor's note ordered no play or no practice, than a doctor's note will be required for return to play.

5. Conflicts in Extra-Curricular Activities

- An individual student who attempts to participate in too many extracurricular activities will, undoubtedly, be in a position of a conflict of obligations.

- Coaches recognize that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extra-curricular activities; and to this end, will attempt to schedule events in a manner so as to minimize conflicts.
 - Students have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid continuous conflicts. This would include being cautious about participating in too many activities.
 - When conflicts do arise, coaches will do their best to work out a solution. If it becomes obvious that a student cannot fulfill the obligation of a school activity, the student should withdraw from that activity.
- *It is the student's responsibility to contact the coach as soon as he/she knows that there will be a conflict in schedules.

7. Eligibility Highlights

- A student's eligibility for interscholastic athletics shall be in the public school district of the parents' domicile.
- A student may meet the domicile requirement at another AAA member school after attending said member school for one calendar year.
- A student can also meet the domicile requirement if the student receives a legal transfer that takes place prior to July 1 before a student enters grades 7-10.
- A student transferring or attempting to transfer from one school to another due to recruitment or inducement may be ineligible for interscholastic competition for a period of up to one full year from the date of transfer or attempted transfer.
- A student is limited to eight consecutive semesters of opportunity for eligibility beginning with the student's first enrollment in the ninth grade.

- A junior high student is not eligible for junior high competition if the student's 16th birthday is on or before September 1.
- A senior high student is not eligible for interscholastic participation if the student's 19th birthday is on or before September 1.
- A student who is a member of a school's athletic team and who has engaged in interscholastic competition may not try out for, practice with, or otherwise participate with, or be a member of a non-school athletic team in the same sport, in season, without losing eligibility for up to a full year (365 days) from the date of such participation with the non-school team.
- This limitation shall apply to the team sports of basketball, baseball, softball. However, a member of an interscholastic baseball or softball team may try out for or practice with a non-school team on days when the school team does not practice or play.
- Players from school teams may play in out-of-season leagues or games outside the season, but may not be school sponsored in anyway. These non-school teams may not use school equipment or uniforms.
- A student who is a member of a school's athletic program as a participant in a sport and who has engaged in interscholastic competition in that sport may enter non-school competition as an individual during or outside of the school season for that sport. These individual sports include: cross country, track, gymnastics, tennis, golf, swimming, wrestling, and bowling.
- In any year that a student engages in interscholastic competition, the student shall be required to present to the coach verification of a physical examination prior to beginning practice which shall be valid for one calendar year.

- Complete eligibility rules can be accessed online at www.ahsaa.org .

GENERAL INFORMATION CONCERNING ATHLETICS

SUMMER WORKOUTS: All athletes are expected to maintain their physical conditioning throughout the summer. Coaches should inform athletes of any special workout programs to be followed. Weight rooms and gyms will be open as scheduled through the summer.

TEAM CAMPS: Coaches may enroll their teams in organized team camps during the summer. Athletes are encouraged to attend if possible. Spirit team members will be required to attend camp.

OFF SEASON: The purpose of an off-season is to prepare a student physically and mentally for participation in athletics; therefore, it is in the student's best interest to have completed a conditioning program before participation in a sport. Required participation is left up the discretion of the coach.

TEAM TRIPS: All students must travel to events in transportation provided by the Jasper School District. Special arrangements can be made for travel if approved by the building administrator. Signout sheets will be provided by the coach, sponsor or teacher for students to go with their parents after the event.

CONTACTING COACHES: Please give a respectful 24 hour period before contacting the coach about concerns. Do not expect to speak with the coach during practice or before, during, and after games.

PEE WEE BASKETBALL: If a 5th grade team has 7 players or fewer, the 4th grade will be added to the 5th grade team to complete the team. If the 6th grade team has 7 or fewer, there will

be enough players added from the 5th grade team to equal 10 players. The decision to move up to the 6th grade will be based on ability level as determined by the coaching staff and administration. All parents of all teams affected will be notified.

JASPER SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT CONSENT FORM

I hereby give my consent for _____ to compete in interscholastic sports; participate in related practice sessions and to travel with the team/coach for such functions. I acknowledge that even with proper instruction and supervision, proper use of equipment and strict observance of the rules, injuries and accidents are still a possibility. I understand that the Jasper School District or its employees will not be liable if an injury or accident occurs. I give my consent for treatment at the best medical facility available in case of injury, accident or illness. I understand that I am required to have Primary Insurance Coverage. I understand that the Jasper School District will not be responsible for payment of any medical bill that the family's personal policy or the district's athletic insurance does not pay. I also agree to be responsible for the return of any athletic equipment issued to the above named student in quality condition. I have read the Jasper Athletic Handbook and do hereby agree to comply and follow the guidelines set forth in order to participate in Jasper School Athletics.

I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE STATEMENTS.

Signature of Parent/Guardian Date

Signature of Athlete

NOTE: This form must be signed and returned to the Coach before an athlete may participate in any athletic activity. Please sign, detach and return to your Coach.

