

# Jefferson Davis County High School



## ATHLETIC HANDBOOK FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

2019-2020

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JDC HIGH SCHOOL  
Bassfield/Prentiss MIDDLE SCHOOL

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## **ATHLETIC STATEMENT**

This athletic handbook is designed to inform student athletes and their parents of the rules, regulations and information that helped develop the rich tradition of competition in JDCI School District athletics. Participation in athletics is a privilege, which carries with it varying degrees of honor, responsibility and sacrifice. Since competition is a privilege and not a right, those who choose to participate shall be expected to follow the rules established by the athletic department and other specific coaches' rules for their sport. Each student athlete represents his/her school and student body. It is the student athlete's duty to conduct himself/herself in a manner becoming the student athlete, his/her family, Jefferson Davis County Schools and the community. While an attempt has been made to answer as many questions as possible and provide information on all aspects of athletic participation, it is possible that you may have some questions that are not answered here. Please contact the principal and/or athletic director for this information. The athletic department will enforce all rules and regulations as described in this Athletic Handbook and other rules adopted by the individual coach. Parents and athletes are asked to sign an acknowledgement document located at the end of this handbook stating that they have read and understand the information included in the Handbook and that the athlete is subject to disciplinary measures should he/she violate the rules and regulations set forth in this Athletic Handbook or any other rules and regulations adopted by the individual coach.

## **DEPARTMENTAL PHILOSOPHY**

The goal of the athletic department is to provide the best opportunities for student athletes to excel in teamwork, sportsmanship, self-discipline and character. In addition to developing skill in a sport, the purpose is to provide each participant with experiences that will be positive and memorable and that help develop the capacity for commitment to a cause, acceptance of responsibility and loyalty toward any chosen endeavor.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

The following policy statement from the National Federation of State High School Associations expresses the concept of sportsmanship as follows:  
"The ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior, and integrity permeate our culture. The values of good citizenship and high behavioral standards apply equally to all activity disciplines. In perception and practice, good sportsmanship shall be defined as those qualities of behavior which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. Further, awareness is expected of the impact of an individual's influence on the behavior of others. Good sportsmanship is viewed as a concrete measure of the understanding and commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity." One of the main goals of the athletic program is to teach the concept of sportsmanship. Good sportsmanship requires that everyone be treated with respect. This includes members of the opposing team, officials, coaches and spectators. Good sportsmanship includes showing courtesy and kindness toward your opponent as well as fellow team members. The contest is judged by the effort of the participants and not by putting down your

opponent. Winning is exciting, but winning at any cost is not the goal. Negative treatment of any participant is outside the spirit and interest of the contest. All MHSAA sanctioned events are a reflection of our community and school. The conduct of the team is extended to parents and fans before, during, and after athletic events.

In order to provide guidance for sportsmanship, the MHSAA has developed the STAR Sportsmanship program that each athlete must complete in order to be eligible to play MHSAA sanctioned sports. Coaches are also expected to complete this program.

### *MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY*

#### **TO REPRESENT YOUR SCHOOL IN ATHLETIC CONTESTS:**

1. You must be a bona fide student, having enrolled not later than the 15<sup>th</sup> day of any semester of participation, carry five major subjects and deport himself/herself satisfactorily.
2. You must attend the school in the district of which your parents are actual bona fide residents.
3. You must not have reached 19 years of age prior to August 1 of the current school year.
4. You must have a certified birth certificate (issued by the State Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state where you were born and bearing its official seal and birth/recording number) on file in school office and official eligibility list (a Form 1 with required information about you included) submitted to the state office 15 days before the first contest.
5. You must not have participated in interschool contest for more than four consecutive years after the date of entering into the ninth grade regardless of when he/she began to participate.
6. You must have received an adequate physical examination for the current school year and have a Physician's Certificate on file in the athletic director's office prior to participating in interscholastic athletics.
7. You (high school and middle school students) must meet Academic Eligibility Rules as defined by the MHSAA (page 6 and 7 of this handbook).
8. You may be eligible in your home school at the beginning of each new school year as far as any transfer of schools is concerned. Your home school is the one that serves the area where your parent/guardian resides. Eligibility may be established in any school by attending that school for a period of one school year from the date of original entry.

If you attend school outside of your “home school” district, you must attend that school for one full calendar year in order to establish eligibility in that school. Always check your eligibility status before changing schools.

9. If your parents make a bona fide move from one school zone to another, you may transfer your eligibility to the new school. You become eligible after a special eligibility sheet signed by the principal of the school from whence he comes is submitted by the new school to the state office if you meet all requirements. If you change schools before your parents move, you do not become eligible in the new school until your parents complete a bona fide move into the new school district and a special eligibility sheet is submitted to the MHSAA.

10. You may not participate on a non-school team or in an outside sport activity in your sport(s) during your school season.

11. You must be an amateur athlete.

12. You must not have participated in any non-sanctioned all-star game.

You may not dress in uniform for an athletic contest or sit on the bench in a game uniform or be on the field or court as a player if you are not eligible to participate in the game or event.

### **RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS**

All students, including student athletes, managers, or support group members must meet the residency requirements of the JDC District Board of Education as well as the Mississippi High School Activities Association.

A pupil must attend school in a school district of which his parents are actual bona fide residents. A parent can have no more than one bona fide residence at any given time. A bona fide residence is one where the family actually lives. This means the specific dwelling in which the family cooks, eats, and sleeps on a regular basis and claims as its sole or primary place of residence. This rule does not prevent a parent from commuting to work and it does not prevent a father from traveling out of state where his work requires him to do so, provided he returns to the home periodically and considers the home as his legal, permanent residence. The family mail must also be received where the family lives.

### **BEFORE THE FIRST PRACTICE:**

The following things are required by the student athlete before the first practice with any team:

1. Meet academic eligibility requirements
2. Take and pass physical examination
3. Obtain parental signature on physical exam emergency information form
4. Parent and athlete sign “Acknowledgement of Athletic Handbook Document”

5. Parent information and consent form

**Jefferson Davis County ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY**

Students must display qualities of good citizenship if they wish to participate in extra-curricular activities. Failure to be a good citizen at all times may result in probation and/or suspension from all extracurricular activities. Any pupil who is under temporary suspension or whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon the school is not eligible. A student's attendance, attitude and classroom effort must be acceptable to the school in which the student is enrolled.

**ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY RULE (MHSAA)**

**Senior High (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Graders)**

The Children First Act of 2009 was passed by the Mississippi Legislature and approved by the Governor. This law dictates the academic eligibility of athletes.

- The MHSAA eligibility rules require each student participating in MHSAA sanctioned competitions to make “satisfactory progress toward graduation.” Each school district determines the requirements for “satisfactory progress toward graduation” through its graduation requirements. Each school district must interpret this according to its requirements. In situations which require “judgment,” schools are directed to “interpret the rules for the benefit of the students.”
- Additionally, according to Mississippi law, a student must maintain a grade point average of at least 2.0 or a C average. This will be measured at the conclusion of the first semester using the semester averages of all the courses the student is taking. Students who do not have a 2.0 or a C average for the first semester will be ineligible for the second semester.
- At the end of the school year, each student's grade point average for the year will be assessed. This assessment will reflect the average for the entire year using the final grades for each course. If the student does not have a grade point average of at least 2.0 or a C average, he/she will be ineligible for the fall semester.
- Students may attend summer school, extended school year, take correspondence classes, participate in credit recovery programs and take advantage of other related options to establish a 2.0 or a C average to regain eligibility. Students must complete these programs prior to the first day of the next year or the next semester.

A 2.0 or “C” average may be calculated in two ways: by grade point average or numerically.

#### Grade Point Average

A = 4

B = 3

C = 2

D = 1

F = 0

#### Numerical

Average all the semester or year-end averages and place the average in the local grading scale. If the overall average is a “C” or better, the student is eligible.

Athletes who participate in sports that cross the semester line (i.e. Soccer, Basketball) will have to maintain their 2.0 (70 numerical) GPA at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester of the current school year in order to continue playing through the season.

Fall sports’ eligibility will be determined by the GPA of the previous school year. Spring sports’ eligibility will be determined by the first semester GPA.

Special education students will be academically eligible if they are making satisfactory progress according to the committees reviewing their Individual Education Plans (IEP).

#### **MIDDLE/JUNIOR HIGH ACTIVITIES:**

To be eligible to participate in interschool middle/junior high activities, a student must be promoted and have passed any four basic courses (any subject that meets the equivalent of at least 250 minutes per week or meets the State Department requirements) with a 2.0 or “C” average the previous semester (computed numerically or by GPA). The year-end average of four basic courses passed will be used to determine eligibility for fall semester. Students must be on track to be promoted to be eligible. Summer school or extended school year grades will replace the grade for a failed course in the spring semester GPA.

Students in the seventh and eighth grades participating at the high school level for fall eligibility must: be promoted, have passed the four core courses (English, math, science, and social studies) and the average of those four core courses must be a “C” or above. For the spring semester eligibility, the student does not have to be passing all four core courses, but the average of those four courses must be a “C” or above. Summer school or extended school year grades will replace the grade for a failed course in the spring semester GPA.

#### **Age**

- (1) 7<sup>th</sup> grader must not have reached 14 years of age prior to August 1.
- (2) 8<sup>th</sup> grader must not have reached 15 years of age prior to August 1.
- (3) 9<sup>th</sup> grader must not have reached 16 years of age prior to August 1.

A student who is uncooperative, i.e., sleeps in class, disrupts, refuses to complete work, etc., will be considered a discipline problem which could result in suspension from athletic competition and/or removal from athletics as possible punitive options.

### **ATTENDANCE ELIGIBILITY**

Daily attendance at school and practice is expected. In order for an athlete to be eligible to participate in any after-school activity he/she must be present a majority of his/her classes on the day of the activity. Practices are considered an activity. Any exceptions must have the approval of the principal. An athlete must be in school on a regular basis in order to be eligible to participate in athletics. An athlete who has excessive tardies to school and/or classes will be subject to restriction from athletic participation.

### **CONDUCT ELIGIBILITY**

Non-Drug Test Violations:

Rule 1:

Student athletes shall not possess, use, transmit or be under the influence of tobacco, alcohol and/or other drugs such as marijuana, controlled drug substances (hallucinogens, stimulants, depressants, or any other narcotic or controlled drug) or possess, use or transmit paraphernalia for use of such substances. (Use of an authorized drug as prescribed by a registered physician will not constitute a violation.)

#### **Consequences:**

Any student at JDC High School or JDC Middle School found to be in possession or under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs on the school campus or any other school sponsored activity (on campus or off campus) will be disciplined according to the school's disciplinary policy.

Rule 2:

Any student athlete found to be in possession or under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs off campus at a non-school sponsored event will be subject to no less than one week suspension from games in the sport in which he/she is a participant. If it is serious enough the athlete may be placed on probation or suspended. An athlete who continues such behavior will be suspended from all athletic participation. Student/Athletes are expected to leave situations immediately where drugs and/or alcohol are being used. Failure to do so implies guilt and violators will be dealt with accordingly.

Rule 3:

Any student arrested for a felony will be suspended immediately from all extra-curricular participation until the student is cleared of the felony charge. If the student is cleared of the felony or if the felony charges are dropped, the student will be reinstated in all extra-curricular activities in which he/she is involved. If the felony arrest is upheld by courts,



the student will be removed from all extra-curricular activities for a minimum of one calendar year.

**Rule 4:**

Specific team rules may be set forth by the coach of each sport. These rules and the penalties for breaking them will be given to the student athletes by the coach at the first parent/athlete meeting of that sport.

The rules under this section are enforced twelve (12) months of the year, grades seven through twelve (7-12).

**CONDUCT NOTES**

Consequences for off campus violations of the Code of Conduct will not be based on hearsay or rumor. When there is reasonable suspicion (a belief or opinion based on the facts or circumstances) or when there is an admission of guilt by the athlete to a violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct the Athletic Handbook rules will be enforced. Penalties for violations take effect immediately upon determination of any violation and will include games in succession: i.e., season schedule, tournaments, and state series, in order of competition. If a violation of the Code of Conduct occurs in the last one-third (1/3) of the sport season, the student athlete will not be considered in good standing and therefore will forfeit all letters and awards for that sport season.

If a violation of the Code of Conduct occurs in the last part of a sport and violator cannot fulfill the terms of his/her consequences in that sport, the suspension does carry-over until the suspension is fulfilled. This includes his/her next sport or the same sport next year; i.e., if the suspension is for two football games with only one remaining; the student athlete must also miss his first basketball game or baseball game until the suspension has been paid.

If a typically one sport student athlete elects to participate in a new sport in order to serve a suspension, he/she will be required to complete that season in good standing. When serving an out-of-school suspension, the student athlete will be ineligible to participate during the suspension period. If school rules are broken, the student athlete will be subject to the normal punishment for such misbehavior as listed in the student handbook as well as subject to penalties under the Athletic Handbook. In no case will athletic rules circumvent or take the place of school rules.

**AWARDS**

An athletic award is a symbol of athletic accomplishment, good sportsmanship and observance of athletic policies. Student athletes, managers, trainers, and cheerleaders are eligible to earn awards. No student athlete may receive an award in a sport for which he/she is academically ineligible at the completion of the season or if under suspension for an athletic violation. Candidates must complete the season's play; however, this requirement may be waived in cases of physical injury. No awards will be issued to an athlete until all equipment for his/her sport is turned in to the coach.

## INFORMATION FOR ATHLETES

### Accidents/Injuries

All accidents or injuries, at home or away, are to be reported to the trainer and/or coach immediately.

### Athletic Seasons (2015-2016)

<b>SPORT</b>	<b>PRACTICE</b>	<b>JAMBOREE</b>	<b>CLASSIC</b>	<b>1<sup>ST</sup> GAME</b>
<b>Football</b>	<b>July 31</b>	<b>August 14</b>	<b>August 22</b>	<b>August 28</b>
<b>Cross Country</b>				
<b>Volleyball</b>				
<b>Basketball</b>				
<b>Powerlifting</b>				
<b>Baseball</b>				
<b>Fast Pitch</b>				
<b>Track</b>				
<b>Golf</b>				
<b>Archery</b>				

### Changing a Sport/Quitting a Team

If a student athlete is cut from a team he/she may join another team or program in that sport season. A student athlete cannot quit one sport to join another sport until that sport season is concluded; i.e., one cannot quit football to go out for basketball until football season is completed. However, athletes will be allowed to transfer from one sport to another during a given season upon mutual agreement of both coaches.

### Conflicts between Activities

Students are sometimes involved in concurrent activities, and there may be conflicts in schedules. Communication between coaches and sponsors of conflicting activities is vital. The student athlete involved in dual participation makes the final choice in which practice or games he/she participated.

## **Doctor Visits**

Medical expenses are the responsibility of the athlete/family. Written verification from the doctor is required when a physician removes an athlete from practices or games. Written verification from the doctor is required to return to athletic competition.

## **Dress Code**

Participation in JDC athletics is a privilege, not a right. To be successful the participant must be well disciplined and willing to put aside individualism for the benefit of the team. Conforming to a dress code is part of this process. It is very important to our team/school reputation that our student athletes dress appropriately during the school day and at all school functions.

The following rules are additional to those included in the student handbook:

1. All athletes must wear to practice clothing in the school colors. No cut off or mutilated clothing.
2. Individual coaches may add additional rules related to the dress code.

## **Equipment**

Equipment checked out by the athlete is he/hers responsibility. It is to be kept clean and in good condition. Loss of issued equipment will be the athlete's/parent's financial obligation. The athlete will not be allowed to participate in other athletic programs or receive awards until this obligation is met.

***NOTE: Equipment includes any issued supplies from the training room.***

## **Insurance**

All JDC student athletes are required to have medical insurance and must supply information verifying such before participating in practice and/or competition.

## **Participation in Two Sports in One-Season**

Student athletes may participate in more than one sport during one season with the approval of both coaches. Practice schedules will be worked out between the coaches involved. Consideration should be given to the importance of the sport (ex. Varsity verses non-varsity, playoffs verses regular season and games verses practice). If contests conflict, the student athlete will decide in which contest to compete. The student athlete must realize that extra time for practice is necessary to compete in two sports in one season. The student athlete must meet the requirements of both sports. If the requirements of one or both sports are not met, the student athlete may be cut from the sport(s). Any student athlete involved in more than one sport during the same season

cannot quit one sport without quitting the other. Quitting for academic reasons is the only exception to this rule. The principal must approve this.

### **Team Tryout Policies**

Each coach of varsity sports has his/her own policy on how he/she will chose his/her team. Coaches will explain their team selection policy at the first meeting. Arrangements for tryouts must be made for athletes involved in overlapping sports seasons. It is the responsibility of the student athlete to contact the coach and discuss possible conflicts well in advance of tryouts. A student athlete may be cut from a team anytime during a season for appropriate reasons.

### **Training Room (High School)**

The training room is available to all athletes. Athletes are offered a wide variety of services to help meet the demands of athletic competition. The following are guidelines to be followed when using the training room

1. No student is permitted in this room without the athletic trainer or coach being with him/her
2. Only student athletes needing treatment and/or rehabilitation of an athletic injury are allowed in this area.
3. All taping, bandaging and treatments will be done by the athletic training staff.
4. Wear appropriate clothing – we are a coed facility.
5. Take a shower after practice before receiving treatment.
6. Do not use or remove supplies without permission. No athlete may participate until all issued supplies have been returned or paid for.

### **Transportation**

Transportation to athletic events is provided by the Athletic Department when appropriate.

- Under no circumstances will an athlete transport other athletes.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

I acknowledge and have read the rules concerning eligibility and conduct for JDC student athletes. I understand the rules and realize that I am subject to disciplinary measures should I violate them. I do agree to participate and conduct myself in accordance with the rules of our athletic program and with any other specific rules of my coaches.

We the undersigned, agree that we have been given the following information and understand it fully.

The school agrees to provide:

Supervision

Instruction

Proper Equipment – This excludes equipment or uniforms provided by the participant.

Proper safety precautions

To abide by all written rules regarding behavior and safety.

That participating in athletics may cause serious injury or death.

The school offers a supplemental, scheduled payment accident insurance plan. It is the responsibility of the parents to enroll in the school insurance plan. Any difference in the basic coverage, deductibles, or other related expenses will be paid by the parent or guardian.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF STUDENT ATHLETE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

**TO PARTICIPATE, ALL STUDENT ATHLETES MUST HAVE A CURRENT PHYSICAL ON FILE IN THE ATHLETIC OFFICE.**

## STUDENT PARTICIPATION CONSENT FORM

As a student in the JDC School District and an active participant in school-sponsored trips, I will abide by the following rules and regulations:

1. I have received in writing the rules and regulations concerning my participation in athletic events.
2. I have completed and turned into the proper authorities, one week prior to any trips, all required documents.
3. I understand that a violation of these rules can result in disciplinary action as stated in the student handbook.

### CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ATHLETES

#### Minor Offenses

Inappropriate classroom behavior  
Tardiness or missed practices/meetings without proper excuse  
Inappropriate dress

#### Disciplinary Actions:

Verbal correction, sitting out game or games, conference with parent

#### Major Offenses

Deface or destroy school property	Use abusive language
Fight	Use alcoholic beverages
Steal	Use controlled substances
Commit forgery	Use of tobacco
Defy a coach or school authority	Display a poor attitude
Cause disruption in school	Display a lack of self-discipline
Boycott the team for any reason	Cause disruption on school bus
Leave school grounds or assigned area without permission	
Felony arrest	

#### Disciplinary Actions:

Parental conference  
Sitting out game or games  
Dismissal from program for a specific period of time  
Permanent dismissal from program

#### Felony Arrest:

Any student arrested for a felony will be suspended immediately from all extra-curricular participation until the student is cleared of the felony charge. If the student is cleared of the felony or if the felony charges are dropped, the student will be reinstated in all extra-curricular activities in which he/she is involved. If the felony arrest is upheld by the courts, the student will be removed from all extra-curricular activities for a minimum of one calendar year.

These responses shall be cumulative to those disciplinary measures set forth within the student handbook. A student who commits a major offense may also be subject to suspension or expulsion. A copy of this code is imbedded in the student handbook.

My signature below attests that I have read, understand, and concur with the information on this form and agree to the terms thereof.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student-Athlete