

School District 308 Junior High Athletic Handbook

Revised Summer 2015



SCHOOL DISTRICT 308 JUNIOR HIGH ATHLETIC PROGRAM

The goal of the junior high athletic program is to provide students with the opportunity to develop a sense of pride and teamwork while developing skills that will allow them to be successful in athletics throughout their school experiences. The focus is on developing character as an athlete, as well as accomplishing both team and individual goals.

Interscholastic Sports

In order to assure adequate playing time for all, we have had to set a maximum number of participants on athletic teams. Places on the team are gained through a “tryout” procedure.

All student athletes trying out for a position on an interscholastic sports team **MUST HAVE A COMPLETED PHYSICAL ON FILE AT THE SCHOOL PRIOR TO PARTICIPATING IN THE TRYOUT PROCEDURE.** Our main concern is for the protection of the health, safety and welfare of our students. This policy regarding physicals is in effect for **all interscholastic sports** throughout the year. Sports physicals are good for one calendar year plus one month (395 days) and will need to be renewed on a yearly basis. We thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Athletes at the junior high level will pay a user fee. The fee is \$40 per sport, with a maximum of \$80 per year. Optional team fees will be discussed by the coach once the team is assembled. Being on the team does not guarantee playing time. The interscholastic program uses the judgment of the coaching staff.

We do not believe that our athletic program must have an overwhelming win/loss record in order to be successful. However, youngsters must learn that through sacrifice, hard work and perseverance some degree of success can be achieved.

The interscholastic sports athletic practice will begin right after school. Students will be expected to be dressed and ready to practice. On game days students will be supervised by the coach until game time.

Students will be transported by the district bus service to each away contest. Students may ride home from the contest when the parent signs the student out with the coach. The parent is responsible for confirming with the coach. A parent may not sign out any student other than their own without written consent from the respective parent. This arrangement needs to be made in advance and communicated to the coach.

The interscholastic programs for all junior high school seventh and eighth grades are as follows:

- Boys — Soccer, cross-country, basketball, wrestling and track
- Girls — Soccer, cross-country, volleyball, basketball, track, cheerleading, and poms

Sixth grade students are allowed to participate in the sports of cross-country and wrestling.

We appreciate parental involvement in their students' activities. We realize the cost in time as well as in equipment is tremendous.

ATHLETIC SCHEDULE

Interscholastic games, for some sports, will usually run until about 6:30 PM. Travel times may vary depending on the distance of the event.

Interscholastics

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| Fall | Volleyball, Boys Soccer, Cross Country |
| Winter | Wrestling, Boys and Girls Basketball, Cheerleading and Poms |
| Spring | Boys and Girls Track, Girls Soccer |

ELIGIBILITY RULES

The students who will need to meet eligibility requirements are: interscholastic athletes, cheerleaders, poms, statistic personnel and managers.

Student athletes must pass all of their classes to continue being academically eligible. A student who receives one F or two D's from the given week's eligibility report may practice, but will not participate or dress in an athletic event. These students will be ineligible from Friday until the official eligibility report is run the following Thursday, even if they bring their grade to passing beforehand. If the next week's eligibility report states that a student is eligible to resume play, they can compete starting on that Thursday. Grades are run weekly, with the exception of the first 2 weeks of each quarter. Three consecutive weeks of ineligibility will result in dismissal from the team.

INTERSCHOLASTIC STUDENT-ATHLETES CODE OF CONDUCT

We believe that interscholastic athletic competition should demonstrate high standards of ethics and sportsmanship and promote the development of good character and other important life skills. We also believe that the highest potential of sports is achieved when participants are committed to pursuing victory with honor according to six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship (the “Six Pillars of Character”). This code not only applies to the athletes, but to the parents of all student-athletes involved in interscholastic sports.

It is the expectation of all junior high student-athletes to follow all district handbook guidelines established and agreed upon at the onset of the school year. Once a student officially joins a team, any disciplinary consequence resulting from violating district 308 handbook policies will result in leaving school grounds immediately following that consequence (participation in that day’s practice or game will not be allowed). Disciplinary consequences include detention, in school suspension, Saturday school, out of school suspension or bus suspension. In addition, administration or the coach at their discretion may designate additional consequences on an individual basis.

Certain code violations indicated below will result in missing multiple athletic contests, or possible dismissal from the team. This will be determined collaboratively among administration, athletic director and coach/coaches.

1. Students will not possess or use tobacco (including chewing tobacco).
2. Students will not possess or use alcoholic beverages.
3. Students will not possess or use any illegal drug or controlled substance.
4. Students will not be involved in theft and/or the willful damage of equipment or property.
5. Students will not be involved in gross misconduct or disobedience as defined in the district’s Student Rights and Responsibilities Code.

Furthermore, the coach or coaches will establish additional rules and consequences governing their sport. Students in violation of a coach’s rule can be subject to consequences at the discretion of the coach. Student-athletes are expected to comply with all school and team rules.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDENT-ATHLETE

Participating in “After School” Activities Following Absence

Students who are scheduled to perform/compete in an after-school event/competition **must be in attendance** for at least half of the school day. Currently, all junior highs participate in a seven hour school day. As such, students must be in attendance for 3 and ½ hours to participate. Further, if a student goes home based on nurse’s recommendation, the student will not be allowed to participate that calendar day. Allowances for “extenuating circumstances” will be reviewed on an individual basis with the coach/director, athletic director, principal and/or assistant principal.

Leaving Games

Players are encouraged to stay on the bench to support the team during both games. Players should not leave for any reason unless it is approved by the coach. Please make any arrangements prior to the start of any game. Arrangements should not take place during the game, except in emergency situations. We feel that staying on the bench will support our “team” philosophy and will lead to a more positive experience for the players, coaches and spectators. Leaving the game without permission will be addressed by the coach.

Use of Uniforms and Equipment

Student-athletes are expected to treat uniforms and equipment respectfully. Any uniforms or equipment damaged or lost will require reimbursement by the student-athlete and their parents.

Proper Behavior

While at games we expect our players to be respectful. Whether the game is at home or away we would like the players to follow a few guidelines. Players may bring electronic devices to games with the understanding that the hosting team is not responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged items. No electronic devices are to be used during any game. Team support is a must to a successful season. We expect all players to be positive and cheer on others, while they are awaiting their chance to participate. Players are to stay on the bench during both games and participate as their coach may need. Coaches will address and issue consequences as needed.

Attending Practice and Games

To be a successful sports program, all players are expected to participate in all scheduled practices and games. If any player may have a conflict in which they miss an event, their parent must notify the coach prior to the start of the event. Any missed event that has not been excused by the coach will be viewed as an unexcused absence. Coaches will address and issue consequences as needed.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARENT

In your role as a parent, you obviously love and are concerned about your child's welfare. You want the best for him or her. But an athlete can have only one coach at a time. Allowing the coach to instruct and guide the team is crucial in many respects.

Should you have any questions or concerns, do not approach the coach immediately at the conclusion of a contest. At this time, coaches have other responsibilities and it may be an emotional time. Call and make an appointment for a later time and approach this meeting in a calm, courteous and logical manner.

One of the responsibilities, which a coach has at the conclusion of a contest, is to have a brief meeting with his or her players. Athletes should not pause to talk to parents or friends immediately after games. These brief meetings are essential to the learning process involved in athletics.

Parents have a responsibility to the coach to provide transportation for their son/daughter after practices and games in a timely manner. Failure to do so will result in consequences and if occurring repeatedly may result in removal from the team.

RELATIONSHIP WITH OFFICIALS

Officials are a necessary part of all athletic contests. During athletic events, times arise where differences of opinion exist between parents, athletes, and officials. At all times, it is important that parents and athletes represent their school in a positive manner, and refrain from challenging an official's call. Concerns about officiating need to be communicated to the athletic director and should not be referenced during the course of an athletic contest.