

WEST FELICIANA MIDDLE SCHOOL

STUDENT ATHLETE HANDBOOK

West Feliciana Middle School believes athletics is an important part of a student-athlete's total educational experience. The success of our athletic programs is based on student-athletes' abilities to balance their participation with their academic requirements. In athletics, our goal is to provide a structured environment where our student-athletes can develop responsibility, work ethic, and self-discipline. West Feliciana Middle School sponsors athletic teams in the following sports:

- **Baseball**
- **Basketball**
- **Cheerleading**
- **Cross Country**
- **Football**
- **Rodeo**
- **Soccer**
- **Softball**
- **Swimming**
- **Tennis**
- **Track**
- **Volleyball**
- **Band**
- **Various other sports when available**

Being involved in athletics provides the student with opportunities to gain experience skills, good sportsmanship, develop leadership skills and learn ideals of fair play and ethical behavior that are necessary for competition and cooperation in society. It should also provide students with unique opportunities for self-discipline, self-sacrifice, and loyalty to the school and the team. West Feliciana Middle School encourages all students to participate in athletics by offering a well-rounded series of programs for young men and women.

COACHING

West Feliciana Middle School hires experienced coaches, dedicated to educating student athletes in individual skills, teamwork, good sportsmanship, and fair play. Our preference is always to recruit coaches from our faculty and staff. For those coaches hired from outside the school, every effort is made to integrate them to the entire school community. The same behavior expected of a teacher in the classroom is expected of all coaches during practices and games.

SPORTSMANSHIP

As members of the West Feliciana Middle School athletic program, students, coaches and parents are expected to demonstrate proper respect for each other, opponents, opposing coaches, teachers, officials, spectators, and the community. Student athletes and coaches are expected to exhibit the highest level of conduct, both on and off the playing fields, as they are at all times a representative of their team and school.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION ACT 314, "LOUISIANA YOUTH CONCUSSION ACT"

1. Prior to beginning of each athletic season, provide pertinent information to all coaches, officials, volunteers, youth athletes, and their parents or legal guardian which informs of the nature and risk of concussion and head injury, including the risks associated with continuing to play after a concussion or head injury.
2. Require each coach, whether such coach is employed or a volunteer, and every official of a youth activity that involves interscholastic play to compete an annual concussion recognition education course.
3. Requires as a condition of participation in any athletic activities that the youth athlete and the youth athlete's parent or legal guardian sign a concussion and head injury information sheet which provides adequate notice of the statutory requirements which must be satisfied in order for an athlete who has or is suspected to have suffered a concussion or head injury to return to play.

STUDENT-ATHLETE AND PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Athletic achievement requires commitment from all athletes, parents, coaches, and administrators. To be a successful program, effective communication must occur. The athletic department and administration believe strongly in being accessible to parents and supportive of the coaching staff.

1. A player should understand that playing on a team is a privilege, not a right, and should strive to do everything that is asked of them during practices and games.
2. A player should understand that academic commitments have the highest priority and will make every effort to maintain a good scholastic and behavioral record.
3. A player participating in athletics is expected to follow all team rules, regulations, and guidelines established by the coaching staff and athletic department.
4. A player will conduct himself on and off the playing field in a manner which will bring credit to himself, his team, and West Feliciana Middle School.
5. A player should remember that as a member of the West Feliciana Middle School athletic program they are representing the school in the community and should do their best to uphold a positive image for West Feliciana Middle School.
6. A parent should not discuss with a coach: playing time, team strategy or play calling, or other student-athletes.

PROCEDURE FOR CONCERNS

1. Make an appointment with the coach. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before, during, or following a contest or practice.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the athletic director or assistant principal to set up a meeting with the coach.
3. If the meeting or discussion with the coach does not result in a resolution to the problem, please contact the athletic director or assistant principal to discuss the situation. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

STUDENT-ATHLETE WHO WITHDRAWS OR IS DISMISSED FROM A TEAM

Any student-athlete who withdrawn or is dismissed from a particular team before the season has ended for that sport **may not** practice or try out for another sport before the season has ended for the sport he had withdrawn from or been dismissed from.

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

Attendance at school is an expectation of our student-athletes. A student is not allowed to participate in after school activities if he is not in attendance on that day. Student-athletes must attend at least one-half of the total class periods to be eligible for the practice/game that day. Students with an excuse from parent(s) may be exempt from school and permitted to practice or compete on the day of competition. These absences will require an administrator's approval.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

ACADEMICS

In order to be eligible for athletics, a student at West Feliciana Middle School must have passing grades in all subjects during any given nine weeks grading period. Any student-athlete failing 1 subject will be placed on probation until their grade improves. **If low performance continues, the student's playing time may be restricted.** A student athlete with 2 or more failing subjects will be suspended from practicing or playing in any

games. This time should be used to study and complete assignments. The students will have two weeks to bring their grades up once suspended. If this occurs, the student athlete will be reinstated to the team. If the student fails to make any grade improvements, they will be removed from the team. Grades will be checked by the coaches, athletic director, and/or the administration every two weeks during the season.

BEHAVIOR

Middle School Athletics are privileges afforded to students who represent West Feliciana Middle School in a positive manner. Students may be denied participation in the Middle School Athletics Program if they fail to maintain good behavior. The athletic director and administration will review students' discipline to determine their eligibility to participate in the Middle School Athletic Program. If a player receives TOR as a punishment, they will not be allowed to play at least ½ of a game. If a student is suspended from school, they are not allowed to attend practice or games during the suspension and they will not be allowed to play for 1 full game upon their return. If a child receives a 2nd suspension during the season, they will be removed from the team.

DUAL PARTICIPATION

Participation on a school athletic team and a non-school activity, which includes but is not limited to an outside athletic team, at the same is generally allowed. Student-athletes who participate in non-school activities while participating on a school athletic team **MUST** make their school participation the priority. A student-athlete may not miss any activity related to the school athletic team to participate in a non-school activity. Consequences will be enforced by the head coach of that particular team.

END OF THE SEASON AWARDS

In order for a student-athlete to be considered for an end of the season award they need to have been apart of the team for the whole season and attended all practices and games.