

MANSFIELD R-IV SCHOOL DISTRICT



2016-2017

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK FOR STAFF/STUDENTS/PARENTS

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School Website: mansfieldschool.net

Welcome to Mansfield Lions' Activities and Athletics ...

GET INVOLVED! At Mansfield R-IV Schools, teachers, and administrators encourage all students to become involved in the extra-curricular activities we have to offer. We believe that a dynamic program of student activities, including athletics, is vital to the educational development of the student. We realize that through these activities personalities emerge, talents are uncovered, friendships are made and leaders are developed.

We also realize that students who get involved in activities do better overall in the classroom and attend school on a more regular basis than those students who do not participate. Young people learn a great deal from participation in interscholastic athletics. Lessons in sportsmanship, teamwork, competition, and how to win and lose gracefully are important aspects of the athletic program. Athletic participation also helps students develop healthy self-concepts as well as healthy bodies. Athletic competition fosters school spirit and provides an opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and emotional patterns learned through sports.

We hope your years in the Mansfield school system will be enhanced by your participation in one or more of our school's activities and that these years will be some of the most enjoyable of your life. Interscholastic activities are an integral component of Mansfield R-IV Schools. Contests are for the benefit of student participants and are viewed as an extension of the classroom. Interscholastic activities provide worthwhile educational and social experiences for students, resulting in positive learner outcomes that contribute to the development of good citizenship and sportsmanship. While the athletic department takes great pride in winning, it does not condone "winning at any cost" and discourages any and all pressures that might neglect good sportsmanship and good citizenship. At all times, the athletic program will be conducted in ways that justify it as an educational activity.

Every year over 300,000 students in the state of Missouri participate in interscholastic activities at the middle/junior and senior-high levels. The Missouri State High School Activities Association is comprised of member schools that establish eligibility criteria for students such as your self to be able to participate. Look at these rules carefully. We want you to enjoy these years, maximize your interscholastic experiences and continue building the spirit of citizenship in our great community. This handbook provides information about the athletic program at our school. It is not intended to replace, but rather to supplement the guidelines and regulations pertaining to the athletic program as contained in the student handbook, the Missouri State High School Activities Association Handbook and any Mansfield R-IV Board of Education policy. If you have questions, please contact your head coach or Doug Jones, Activities Director, at 924-3236.

Opportunities at Mansfield High School:

Extra-Curricular Activities

An attempt is made to make the activities of MHS a valuable part of the educational program. The purpose of these activities is not to replace regular schoolwork, but rather to make it an extension of the classroom.

Athletic Teams

Boys: Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, and Track.

Girls: Basketball, Cheerleading, Cross Country, Track, and Softball.

Activities

Concert Choir, Marching Band, Academic/Scholar Bowl, Speech and Debate, Pep Band, and various clubs and student organizations.

Interscholastic Athletic Objectives

As a result of your involvement in the Mansfield R-IV Athletic program it is our desire that student-athletes shall learn:

- To work with others -- In a democratic society a person must develop self-discipline, respect for authority and the spirit of hard work and sacrifice. The team and its objectives must be placed higher than personal desires.
- To be successful – Our society is very competitive. We do not always win, but we succeed when we continually strive to do so. We can learn to accept defeat only by striving to win with earnest dedication and accept that losing has its place in competition. Develop a desire to succeed and do your best.

- To develop sportsmanship – To accept any defeat like a true competitor, knowing we have done our best, we must learn to treat others, as we would have others treat us. We need to develop desirable social traits, including emotional control, honesty, cooperation and dependability.
- To improve – Continual improvement is an essential component of good citizenship. As a student participant, you must establish goals and constantly try to achieve those goals. Trying to improve in the skills and knowledge of your chosen activity develops personal traits which enhance the success of a team.
- To enjoy extracurricular activities – It is necessary for student participants to enjoy being involved, to acknowledge all of the personal rewards to be derived from competing and to give sufficiently of themselves in order to preserve and improve the program.
- To develop desirable personal health habits – To be an active, contributing citizen, it is important to obtain a high degree of physical fitness through exercise and good health habits and to develop the desire to maintain this level of physical fitness after formal competition has been completed.
- To be a successful student participant – The school extracurricular programs provide you an opportunity to develop and improve your skills, be a healthy competitor and valuable team member. To be a successful student AND participant in extracurriculars, the opportunities to participate should never become more important or separated from the academic milestones each person must meet.

Participation Theory

7th and 8th Grade: The junior high program teaches the basic skills of the activity. Interscholastic competition begins at this level and will afford as many students as possible the opportunity to participate within the schedule so that they may achieve their fullest learning and performance levels.

9th Grade: Some 9th grade activities are more limited in scope and availability for participation. Therefore, while an effort is made to allow as many students as possible to compete, the more advanced participants may receive the majority of participation time. Other team members may be offered the opportunity to participate in a schedule which demands lesser skills development.

Junior Varsity: This program will develop and utilize those that show the greatest ability in a variety of skills. Role specialization may become more evident at this level. Those who are more able will be the primary participants.

Varsity: The varsity team is for those who have learned the basic skills well and perform them in both practice and in interscholastic competition. Role specialization is often a necessity at this level and participants may be used in specific roles for the benefit of the entire team. Depending on the activity, not all wishing to participate will be able.

Participants who display leadership and/or enthusiasm, in combination with basic skill development, may enhance their opportunity to participate.

Blueprints For The Successful Player

Players are ambassadors for our school, community, team and their family. Our players are expected to exhibit leadership, sportsmanship and character **at all times**.

The player as a leader

- Accepts playing time, positions, and roles designated by their coaches/sponsoring educator.
- Assists where, and whenever, possible in developing the skills of less experienced teammates.
- Accepts and respects the decisions of coaches'/sponsoring educator

Know the rules

- Obtains and reads the basic and supplemental rules of their activity.
- Learns and applies the rules of the activity to the best of their ability.
- Attends any pre-season rules or coordination meetings offered for student participants.

Know your organization and its policies

- Supplies the coach/sponsor with accurate information at all times.
- Shows respect for the team's equipment.
- Submits all fees, physical consent forms and parental consent forms, etc. to your coach /sponsor in a timely manner.

Participation and performance

- Enjoys your activity. If something is troubling you then speak to your coach.
- Is prepared and is on time
- Attends practices and events with proper equipment.
- Listens and participates fully.
- Respects teammates. NO MATTER WHAT.

Hazing and Harassment

It is the policy of the MSHSAA Board of Directors and the Mansfield R-IV School District that student hazing is inconsistent with the educational goals of the district and have no place in school-sponsored activity programs. Further, hazing poses a significant risk to the physical and mental welfare of students. Coaches, directors, sponsors and administrators must take an active role in the prevention of all forms of hazing and harassment. Students directly or indirectly involved in hazing other students, on or off school grounds, could be considered ineligible by the school administration under the MSHSAA citizenship standard.

Requirements Prior to Participation

“Eligibility to represent a school in interscholastic activities is a privilege students may attain by meeting the essential eligibility requirements established by member schools through this association and any additional requirements set by a member school for its own students. Eligibility is not a student’s right by law, and precedent-setting legal cases have affirmed this.”

Parental Permission

The MSHSAA requires student participants to provide information that will be documented on the MSHSAA Participation Certificate. The following information is required before a student may participate in activities:

Prior to each year of interscholastic athletic participation, a student shall furnish a statement, signed by the student’s parents or guardians, which grants permission for the student to participate in interscholastic athletics.

Physical Exams and Insurance

Every athlete must have a current and valid physical before they are allowed to practice and compete. Physicals obtained after **February 1** of the current year are valid for the next school year. It is required that you have a certificate of an issued physical exam signed and authorized by a physician, advanced nurse practitioner in written collaborative practice with a physician, or a certified physician’s assistant in collaboration with a sponsoring physician stating that you are physically able to participate in athletic practices and contests for your school. You will not be permitted to practice or compete until a complete, signed certificate is on file at the school.

No one may practice or participate for a school until there is verification that you have basic athletic health insurance coverage. Athletes are required to provide their own health insurance. Insurance may be purchased through the school. See your coach or activities director for information on this matter if needed. On the physical form, parents are asked to verify coverage.

Code of Conduct Form

A copy of the athletic/activities code of conduct form needs to be signed by both a parent and the athlete.

Emergency Medical Authorization

Each athlete’s parents shall complete an Emergency Medical Authorization Form giving permission for treatment by a physician or hospital when the parent(s) are not available, and permission for their child to participate.

Scheduling Conflicts With Other Activities

Every effort is made to avoid scheduling more than one activity on the same day. Conflicts do occur because students are involved in more than one activity. The following guidelines apply when conflicts occur:

- District and State events take precedent over the other scheduled activities.
- Events scheduled on the school calendar take precedent over rescheduled events.

Citizenship Requirements For Extra-Curricular Activities

A student shall not be considered eligible while suspended from school or with an unexcused absence. A student must be in attendance for a full day to be considered eligible to participate in an activity on that specific date unless it is a prearranged absence due to a family emergency. For contests on Saturday, the student must have been in school for a full day on Friday.

Any student who is alleged to have acted in ways which misrepresent or tarnish the reputation of the Mansfield R-IV school district will be suspended from all activities pending a due process procedure. If it is determined that a student(s) has exhibited poor citizenship the suspension may be extended and/or be made permanent.

Transportation to Extra-Curricular Activities

The school provides transportation to extra-curricular activities. Students are required to ride the bus to events. Any student riding to an activity on school transportation must return on school transportation unless a parent or guardian communicates **in person** with the sponsor, coach, or administrator about the transfer of responsibility for the student's transportation after the activity is complete.

Failure to follow proper procedure could result in loss of participation privileges.

Care Of Equipment

In order to give the student a sense of responsibility and an appreciation of his/her equipment, each student athlete will be held accountable for the abuse or loss of it. **ALL EQUIPMENT MUST BE TURNED IN OR PAID FOR BEFORE THE ATHLETE PLAYS ANOTHER SPORT.**

Athletic Lettering

All of the Mansfield Athletic Programs offer an athletic letter. Each sport offers criteria and qualifications for lettering set forth by the individual sport coaching staff. Generally speaking, criteria include participation, attitude and work habits. Your coach will be able to answer specific questions regarding his/her lettering policy. Students that quit or are dismissed before the conclusion of the season are ineligible to letter.

Sportsmanship

Mansfield High School is a member of the Summit Conference. As a member of MSHSAA and the Summit Conference, Mansfield High School follows all policies and guidelines of the association.

Summit Conference tenets:

"It shall be the purpose of this organization of schools to encourage and actively promote interscholastic activities of such nature as will develop in those who participate in the high ideals of citizenship and cause opportunity to present for them to benefit from competitive association with others. It is further the purpose of the organization to regulate and deal with all interscholastic activities under the jurisdiction of said organization among the member schools and to promote good will among the schools represented."

Sportsmanship Standards

Players, coaches and spectators will:

- Regard coaches, staff members, administrators, and game officials as fair, accept their decisions as final and treat those individuals with respect.
- Respect the property of our school and other schools.
- Cheer for the kids on both teams. Show appreciation of good play by both teams
- Treat the opponent's coaches, players, staff members, and spectators with respect.
- Accept the decisions and judgments of the coaches.
- Wear t-shirts/clothing that displays positive language and themes.
- Remain off the playing field/court before, during and after events.
- Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.
- Maintain an atmosphere of good sportsmanship **at all times.**

Players, coaches, and spectators will refrain from:

- Actions that will offend, embarrass, or intimidate any individual athlete.
- Actions that will call negative attention to yourself.

- Taunts, chants, noises, cheers, jeers, songs, profanity or motions directed at the opposing team, coach, or school.
- Using noisemakers.
- Throwing objects
- Displaying signs of any type other than official school banners.

Failure to comply with these Sportsmanship Standards may result in your removal from the site of competition and may result in further disciplinary action.

The Roles in the Relationship Between Coach, Parent, and Athlete

Being a part of an athletic program is not easy; the athlete's must have a great amount of self discipline. We believe that when a teenage player grows into adulthood, he/she will use what he/she learns here to meet the expectations and responsibilities placed on them.. Living up to these high standards, we feel, will better prepare our athletes for life ahead of them. Knowing the roles of the three main elements in an athletic program, coach, parent, and athlete, is vital in the success of the athlete.

Coaches Role

- Set a good example for players and fans to follow.
- Be positive, fair, and consistent with the players.
- Making playing time and strategy decisions with thought and care.
- Establish and organize practice for the team on a daily basis.
- Be a good communicator with parents and players.
- Protect the safety of all athletes.
- Know and employ injury prevention procedures.
- Make sure all players know the expectations, procedures and rules for the program.
- Make sure everyone has practice and game schedules.
- Be a professional practitioner in dealing with situations in the sport and stay current.
- Keep inventory of equipment.
- Work to help assistants develop and improve.
- Keep track of academic progress of athletes.
- Be available to talk with players and parents.

Parent's Role

- Be a fan of everyone on the team.
- Respect the decision of officials.
- Respect other fans, coaches, and athletes.
- Talk to their child if they have any questions and, if they still have questions, contact the coach through athletic department procedures.
- Don't put your child in the middle by talking bad about the coach, program or teammates through conversation.
- Don't talk to coaches on game day about a complaint. Make an appointment at the convenient time for both parties.
- Understand the coach's responsibility is to make sure the students are safe and become better people and athletes, not to win every game.
- Be supportive of the child and of the program.

Player's Role

- Be positive and have a good attitude.
- Support your teammates.
- Always work hard!
- If they have any questions, asks the coach – "The only dumb question is the one that you do not ask."
- Know and follow school and team rules.
- Challenge themselves as a student, person and athlete.
- Meet everyday classroom expectations.
- Notify the coach of any scheduling conflicts in advance.
- Talk to the coach about any special concerns.

Questions for the Coach

- If appropriate talk with your child about the question.
- Set up a meeting with the coach if you still have questions.
- Follow the Mansfield Activities “Eight Step Parent Procedure.”

Things not to ask about

- Playing time.
- Game strategies.
- Other players.

The main purpose is to open the lines of communication and to assist in understanding expectations of the shareholders within the program. Discussion of these roles takes place every year for every sport. The consistency of these rules in every program is vital for the overall acceptance by the parties involved in the education of our students.

A positive attitude may not solve all your problems, but it will annoy enough people to make it worth the effort. -Herm Albright

Mansfield Athletics - Eight Step Parent Procedure

All concerns regarding your student in the sport which your student is involved in can be addressed by following the eight steps:

- Step 1 – Contact the Head Coach via phone, e-mail, or in person to arrange a meeting time. Please do not make this initial contact immediately after a game or contest.
- Step 2 – Attend meeting on set date and discuss concern and come to a resolution. Concerns are limited to your student-athlete only. Discussion of any other student-athletes is means for meeting termination. Playing time is not an appropriate discussion topic, but discussion about how your athlete can improve is appropriate. The athlete should be present at this meeting.
- Step 3 – Contact the Athletic Director, Doug Jones, via phone, e-mail, or in person to arrange a meeting time if a satisfactory resolution to the concern is not reached through Step 2. The head coach will be invited to this meeting.
- Step 4 – Attend meeting on set date and discuss the concern and the proposed resolution to the concern by the Head Coach. The athlete should be present at this meeting.
- Step 5 – Contact the Principal, Richard Wylie, via phone, e-mail, or in person to arrange a meeting time if a satisfactory resolution(s) to the concern is not reached through Step 4. Head Coach and Athletic Director will be invited to this meeting.
- Step 6 – Attend meeting on set date and discuss the concern and the proposed resolution to the concern by the Head Coach and Activities Director. The athlete should be present at this meeting.
- Step 7 – Contact Superintendent, Dr. Nate Moore, via phone, e-mail, or in person to arrange a meeting time if a satisfactory resolution to the concern is not reached through Step 6. Head Coach, Activities Director, and High School Principal will be invited to this meeting.
- Step 8 – Attend meeting on set date and discuss the concern and the proposed resolution(s) to the concern by the Head Coach, Athletic Director, and Principal. The athlete should be present at this meeting.

Mansfield R-IV School District – Extracurricular Activities Commitment Form

PARTICIPANTS NAME (PRINT) _____ **SCHOOL YEAR** _____

Prior to participating in any practice or tryout sessions for any interscholastic sport, each athlete must:

- Successfully pass a physical examination by a registered physician and the copy of such examination must be on file in the office of the activities director. A physical exam is valid if issued on or after Feb. 1 of previous school year.
- Provide proof of personal health insurance (by stating the name of your insurance company and policy number on the parent permission form).
- Have parent and student signature on your parent permission form.
- Have parent and athlete signature on the athletic rule violation form.
- Return the Athletic Commitment Form properly signed

As a student-athlete in The Mansfield R-IV School District participating voluntarily in interscholastic athletics I verify that:

- I have read this booklet and understand that the Mansfield R-IV School District and Missouri State High School Activities Association have various rules and policies pertaining to sportsmanship, citizenship and scholastics. I understand there may be consequences for breaking school policy or MSHSAA rules which could include suspension from extracurricular activities for up to 365 days.
- I will be responsible for all equipment issued to me throughout the season and will return such equipment at the conclusion of the season. I agree to pay the current replacement cost for any of the equipment not accounted for by me at the end of the season.
- I, along with my parents, certify that I have read, understand, and will follow all of the district and MSHSAA policies regarding extracurricular activities. I understand in order to be eligible, and to maintain my eligibility, I must comply with all requirements listed.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

As the parent/guardian of a student participating voluntarily in interscholastic athletics/activities, I have read this handbook, discussed it with my son/daughter, and will support the school district and MSHSAA in their efforts to promote good citizenship and adhere to MSHSAA policies.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____