

Bell City CUBS



EXTRA-CURRICULAR STUDENT HANDBOOK

2025 – 2026

Approved and supported by the Administration and Bell City R-II Board of Education

INTRODUCTION

Congratulations! You have shown the initiative to accept responsibility for participating in an activity/athletic program at Bell City R-II School District. Participation in one of the many programs is a privilege and should be regarded as such. Contained within this handbook are brief descriptions of your expectations as players and fans. It also contains excerpts from the MSHSAA handbook on what it takes to become eligible to participate and what it takes to keep your eligibility. This handbook is designed to promote team loyalty and sportsmanship, which have become cornerstones for the extra-curricular programs provided to you by the Bell City R-II School District. Accepting the challenge before you will be a rewarding experience filled with life-long memories. Participation as a Bell City Cub interscholastic member is a privilege and you owe it to yourself, your family, your school and your community to be "the best that you can be".

GENERAL GOALS OF THE PROGRAM

- To:
1. Provide opportunities for students to experience success in a sport he or she selects
 2. Practice self-discipline and emotional maturity in learning to make decisions under pressure
 3. Help students develop ideals of fairness, hard work and honesty
 4. Promote physical fitness and development through sports
 5. Help student-athletes in understanding the value of athletics in relation to the academic program

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- In the preceding semester of attendance, you must have earned a minimum of 3.0 units of credit or have earned credit in 80% of the maximum allowable classes in which any student can be enrolled in the semester, whichever is greater
- Currently, you must be enrolled in, and regularly attending, courses that offer 3.0 units of credit of 80% of the maximum allowable classes in which any student can be enrolled in the semester, whichever is greater
- The credits you are enrolled in are persisting toward graduation from your school
- Summer school courses for academic eligibility may count provided the course is necessary for graduation or promotion and is placed on the school transcript. No more than 1 unit of credit in summer school can be counted toward eligibility. Electives and correspondence are not accepted. Only core courses will count toward eligibility.

- If beginning the 9th grade, you must have been promoted at the close of the previous school year.
- You must be making satisfactory progress toward graduation as determined by your local school's policy.

AGE

- If you reach 19 years of age prior to July 1, you will be ineligible the next school year.
- Over-aged eighth graders should be moved up to the senior high team to have eight semesters of eligibility.
- In order to participate on or against teams made up of only ninth-graders, you must not have reached 16 years of age prior to July 1 preceding the opening of school.
- However, you may participate with the next higher grade when you no longer meet the age limit for your grade.

ATHLETIC/SPORTS ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION

Insurance:

Students must obtain and show proof of health or accident insurance before they will be allowed to participate in any sporting event or cheerleading. Proof of insurance shall be a parent/guardian signature on the PARENT PERMISSION AND AUTHORIZATION FOR TREATMENT SECTION, on the official MSHSAA Physical Form. This is a MSHSAA requirement. Accident insurance is made available each school year for any student who is interested in purchasing a policy.

Physicals:

Students must have a physical completed by a qualified physician before he/she can practice or participate in any sporting event or cheerleading. This is a MSHSAA requirement. Physicals are now applicable for 2 year periods, IF the doctor otherwise does not notate.

BUS POLICY

All students are required to ride the bus to an extra-curricular or school-sponsored event, unless there is another school event conflicting with bus departure time. In such cases other arrangements can be made with the principal or superintendent. Students will be allowed to return from an extra-curricular event with a parent/guardian. At the beginning of each sport season, parent/guardian of student must fill out a release form that can be obtained from the

High School office. Athletes will only be allowed to leave from events with people listed on the release form. In cases of an emergency, a representative of the family may also sign out the student with Administrative approval. In all other circumstances students must return on the bus from events.

IN SEASON – PRACTICE SESSIONS & ATTENDANCE

Much importance is placed on student's attendance and participation at all scheduled practice sessions. Absences from games or practices will be excused for the following reasons only:

- Sickness
- Death in the family
- Religious activity (other than social)
- MSHSAA Activities
- School activities for which prior approval by the coach has been obtained
- Extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control which will be explained by the parent

Medical appointments will not be excused unless the coach is given a 2 day advance notice or it is a medical emergency.

1. The coach should be notified in advance, by the student or their parent only, each time the student-athlete will be unable to attend a practice session for whatever reason.
2. Athletes are expected to attend school in order to participate in practice or games. Students who are absent from school may not be allowed to practice and shall not participate in the game unless previously arranged through the principal's office. You must attend one half of the school day and be excused the absent portion to be able to participate. It is understood that there may be extenuating circumstances arising in this situation which may necessitate the principal making a determination as to whether or not a student may participate.

OUT OF SEASON

As a student-athlete it is expected that you will attend as many summer activities as possible. Student-athletes are also expected that you will notify the coach if you are unable to attend.

DRUG & ALCOHOL ABUSE/VAPE or Tobacco

Students will be subject to random drug testing and will adhere to the school drug testing policy that is outlined in the student handbook:

*Some circumstances may be at the discretion of the individual coach and/or Administration and reviewed on a case by case basis. Punishment for individual basis may be administered by the

coach or administration. These also adhere to the student handbook consequences that are outlined.

PARTICIPANT & PARENT CONCERNS

If the parent or guardian wishes to make a complaint against any coach or sponsor arising out of a particular activity situation or incident where their student was involved, a meeting with such coach or sponsor will require a “24 hour cooling off period” before such a meeting will be held. This procedure will help ensure the meeting be more productive and help alleviate some emotional feelings and responses which might have occurred if such a meeting were held immediately after the incident in question. At the time of the incident the parent or guardian should state to the coach or sponsor that they wish to set up such a meeting with no further discussion taking place at that time between the coach/sponsor and the parent/guardian. The coach/sponsor, athletic director and principal will attend the meeting with the parent/guardian (as required per timeline listed below). If the incident in question occurs on a Friday, the meeting shall be scheduled on the next school day agreeable to all parties. Parents/guardians who have concerns about a coach or advisor are to perform the following procedures:

1. Participant meets with coach/advisor
2. Participant/parent meets with coach/advisor
3. Participant/parent meets with athletic director
4. Participant/parent meets with coach and athletic director
5. Participant/parent meets with school administration

PARENT EXPECTATIONS

It is expected that you will:

- Support all school sponsored programs
- Be on time to all practices and contests
- Support the coach in all his/her decisions
- Not discuss issues or concerns with the coach or other student athletes in front of your child
- Be respectful towards other teams and officials

You have signed this form ONLINE during registration that you agree to all terms.