

ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK



Compiled for the Student Athletes of Jones County by:

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Jones County School District

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B.S., University of Mississippi; Ph.D., University of Southern Mississippi

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Jones County School District

Notice of Non-discrimination

The Jones County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

**Larry Johnson, PhD
5204 Highway 11 North
Ellisville, MS 39437**

If you have further questions or concerns, you may contact:

**United States Department of Education
Office for Civil Rights
1999 Bryan Street, Suite 1620
Dallas, Texas 75201-6810
OCR 305
#214.661.9600**

TITLE IX

As provided under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, no person in the U.S. shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or be subject to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the Title IX policies:

**William R. Parker, PhD
5204 Highway 11 North
Ellisville, MS 39437
601-649-5201**

INTRODUCTION

This athletics handbook has been prepared to present clear guidelines to cover specific aspects of the athletic program in the school district. The school board and administration believe that it will be helpful not only to staff members directly involved in athletics but also to students and parents who are affected by or are interested in learning about the program.

It is important to understand that this handbook is supplemental to and is not intended to supersede or substitute for policies and procedures of the school district adopted by the school board on governing operations of the school district. Every staff member and all students are subject to these policies together with policies stated in the student handbook.

In addition, the athletic program of the district must conform to all rules and regulations established by the Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA) and the State Board of Education.

All staff members must make certain that programs under their supervision and/or with which they are associated as members of the athletic department are in compliance with the policies of their school district, the State Board of Education, and the MHSAA. This handbook outlines in detail the following areas of the athletic program.

MISSION STATEMENT

Athletics should function as an integral part of the total curriculum in the Jones County School District, offering opportunities that will promote self-realization and all around growth, as well as the development of fellowship and good sportsmanship.

The major objective of the athletic program is to provide a wholesome opportunity for students to develop positive and responsible habits and attitudes toward group and social living. Athletics help the student athlete develop a healthy self-concept, as well as a healthy body, by teaching those skills necessary for individual and team participation.

The interscholastic athletic program should be conducted in accordance with school board policies and regulations and should be conducted in a manner that will justify it as an educational activity.

CODE OF ETHICS

The coaching profession carries with it certain obligations and responsibilities to the sport, to the players and to fellow coaches. It is essential that every member of the profession be constantly aware of these obligations and responsibilities, to the end that coaching remains an honorable calling and that each member conducts himself/herself in such a manner as to maintain the dignity and decency of the profession.

In relationships with players under his/her care, the coach should always be aware of the influence he/she wields for good or bad. Parents entrust their children to the coach and through his/her example; these young people should emerge as fine and decent people. The coach should never place the value of winning above that of instilling the highest ideals and character traits in his/her players. The safety and welfare of the players should always be uppermost in the mind of the coach.

In teaching a sport, the coach must realize that there are rules designed to protect the player and to provide common standards for determining a winner and a loser. Any attempt to beat these rules, to take unfair advantage of an opponent or to teach deliberate unsportsmanlike conduct has no place in athletics. The coach should set the example for winning without boasting and for losing without bitterness.

Coaches who conduct themselves using these principles as guidelines will be successful in terms of the respect they gain from their players as well as their peers.

The essential qualities desired in coaches are honesty and integrity. Coaches whose conduct reflects these characteristics will bring credit to the coaching profession. It is through such conduct that the profession will earn and maintain its rightful place in the educational program and make its full contribution to all associated with the program.

OUTLINE OF SPORTS OFFERED -- JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL

FALL	WINTER	SPRING
Football (3)	Basketball (3)	Baseball (2)
Volleyball (2)	Soccer (2)	Track (2)
Swimming (1)	Archery (1)	Tennis (1)
Cross Country (1)	E-Sports (1)	Fast-pitch Softball (2)
Cheerleading (2)		
Golf (1)		

INCLUSION STATEMENT-This list is not intended to be exclusive. There may be times when additional assignments may be added or deleted. All assignments are based on participation, interest, and the direction of the school board with recommendations through the principal and the school athletic director.

PLEASE USE THE GUIDELINES BELOW WHEN MAKING SCHEDULES FOR THE 2026- 2027 SEASON:

Sport	Maximum Number Of Games	Comments
Volleyball	24	
Football	11	5A-6A-7A Classification
Swimming	10	
Cross Country	13	
Golf	18	Boys and Girls each
Soccer	23	
Basketball	28	
Archery	16	
Fast-Pitch Softball	28	No Games on Good Friday
Tennis	20	
Track	14	
Baseball	28	No Games on Good Friday

SPECIAL EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO SCHEDULE GAMES ONLY ON DAYS STUDENTS ARE IN SCHOOL.

GAMES SHOULD NOT BE SCHEDULED ON STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS, WEATHER DAYS, ETC.

TRAVEL AND COST SHOULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED WHEN MAKING SCHEDULES.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SCHOOL ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

The basic role of the school athletic director is to provide leadership to the overall athletic program, as well as to manage the details necessary for a successful day to day program.

The management role of the school athletic director may be the most varied of all school administrators' roles. The tasks of scheduling, procuring and expending funds, managing personnel, etc., combined with the constant interruptions characterized by the job tasks dictate that the school athletic director possesses a high degree of organizational skills.

The position of the school athletic director is of paramount importance in ensuring that the activities are coordinated with the regular school curriculum and in providing a well-rounded and meaningful educational experience.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. The school athletic director will establish an athletic program that ensures a cooperative, supportive and participative environment for all students, coaches, faculty and community. Objectives:

- **Establish open lines of communications with coaches through regular meetings with coaches and selected school and community groups.**
- **Develop a procedure for confidential discussions of problems and possible solutions.**
- **Inform parents and athletes of the team requirements, expectations, appeal procedures, benefits of participation, as well as the general established inherent dangers of participation.**
- **Through publications, establish open lines of communication with the community that promote and foster understanding, cooperation and acceptance of the athletic program in the eyes of the community.**
- **Scheduling of all athletic events (games, etc.) will be approved by the school athletic director. The school athletic director will forward the schedule to the school administration for approval.**

2. The school athletic director will be visionary and innovative, and will create both short range and long range goals for the athletic program in cooperation with the student, faculty and community.

Objectives:

- **Keep abreast of current research regarding all areas of high school athletics.**
- **Assess the needs of the athletic program which identifies and prioritizes school and community expectations.**
- **Develop plans which address assessed needs.**
- **Take advantage of community and school district resources.**
- **Initiate and implement plans of action.**
- **Evaluate progress and/or outcomes.**

3. The school athletic director will provide leadership that is proactive and positive. This leadership will place emphasis on the mental, physical and social benefits of interscholastic athletics to the student athletic and coaches.

Objectives:

- **Provide in-service education and information to coaches in the methodology of using positive reinforcement and building self-esteem of all student athletes.**
- **Anticipate problems and difficult situations and strive to resolve them by developing a written plan of action to address them.**
- **Encourage moral and positive social behavior by coaches and student athletes.**

4. The school athletic director will perform and be accountable for managerial functions.

Objectives:

- **Devise and prepare a plan for facility assessment, maintenance and improvement.**
- **Coordinate with other administrators regarding the qualifications, expectations, job descriptions, hiring and evaluation of athletic personnel.**
- **Provide a plan to conduct safety checks on all facilities, equipment and teaching techniques.**

5. The school athletic director, along with the coaches, will provide an athletic program for students that will promote good sportsmanship and citizenship.

Objectives:

- **Develop and implement a student athlete code of conduct.**
- **Ensure those requirements for participation show high expectations for good citizenship.**
- **Emphasize the need to demonstrate good sportsmanship and fair play.**

6. The school athletic director will be responsible for ensuring that all policies and rules of the National Federation, the MHSAA, the Board of Education and the school administration are updated and adhered to.

Objectives:

- **Inform all coaches of rules and regulations pertaining to conduct of athletic program; i.e., handbook, in-service programs, updates ensuring they are fully understood.**
- **Develop a written procedure to notify parents and student athletes of rules and regulations that apply to participation.**
- **Keep abreast of changes and modifications to existing rules and regulations and communicate the changes to all participants, personnel, parents, and student athletes.**
- **Enforce rules/regulations with established actions/penalties that are clearly stated and given to parents, student athletes, and coaches.**

COACHING EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The school district recognizes the need for a job description for coaches, with strong emphasis on credibility and accountability. Among the major performance areas underlying to job description are:

1. Coaches' Professional and Personal Relationships

- **Rapport**
 - A coach must be able to develop good rapport with many groups and individuals.
 - Among these are the team personnel, the student body, the school staff and administrators as well as the community, officials, spectators, news media, parents, and fellow coaches. Good rapport and an image of competency are invaluable to a coach.
- **Cooperation**
 - The district expects a maximum of cheerful give and take among all individuals associated with the comprehensive program. A coach must work hand-in-hand with his superiors and other members of the staff.
- **Leadership**
 - Enthusiasm, diligence, honesty, dress and love of the game are all qualities of personal pride that should be exhibited by a coach.
- **Discipline**
 - Every facet of discipline is the coach's responsibility. The coach should be a model for all that the program represents-observation of school codes, training rules, as well as rules of the game which include good sportsmanship, behavior of the participants and the conduct of the crowd.
- **Improvement**
 - A coach must constantly take advantage of opportunities for self-improvement.
 - Attendance at district meetings, rules clinics, special workshops and clinics in specific fields and in-service training programs is vital for successful job performance.

2. Coaching Techniques

- Use sound and acceptable coaching and teaching practices.
- Run well organized practice sessions.
- Complete season planning well in advance of starting date.
- Adhere to a sound program of injury prevention. If injuries do occur, follow the prescribed routine and keep an open line of communication with the patient, trainer, doctors and parents.
- Construct a well-organized game plan.
- Develop a written accountability system for equipment.
- Inform assistant coaches, student managers and statisticians of what is expected of them.

3. Coaches' Responsibilities

- **To Team Members:**
 - The main reason for having athletic teams within the school is to fully develop the capabilities of young men and women. Development of

positive attitudes is of the utmost importance. Aggressive and fair play should be taught while stressing good sportsmanship. To this means, the coach must be the leader and set a good example.

- The coach should be fair and unprejudiced toward players taking into consideration their individual and cultural differences, needs, interests, aptitudes, temperaments and environments.
- The safety and welfare of players should always be a concern. The coach's primary responsibility is to the individual player. However, consideration and concern must also be given to the family of the student athlete.
- A coach should monitor the grades of the student athlete and should discuss those grades with the student and their parents if deemed necessary.
- **To School District:**
 - Be familiar with school board policy concerning athletes and aware of MHSAA rules and regulations, making certain that physicals have been conducted, birth certificates and parent consent cards are on file prior to participation.
 - Conduct himself/herself in a positive manner. His/her reputation as a coach is under constant scrutiny.
 - Be loyal to the school, the administration, the team, the students, and to the other coaches.
 - Encourage the student body and spectators to treat visiting teams with courtesy.
 - Show mastery of the principles of education.
 - Give support to all endorsed activities of the school.
- **To Fellow Coaches:**
 - Praise assistant coaches and give recognition whenever possible.
 - Expect all staff members to contribute a full measure of time, effort, thought and energy to the program.
 - Establish an evaluation form for assistant coaches.
 - Support, promote and cooperate with all other coaches for the well-being of the total program.
 - Conduct in-service programs for coaches.
- **To Faculty Members:**
 - Cooperate and work with fellow faculty members, always keeping in mind the well-being of the student athlete.
- **Regarding The Physical Plant and Equipment, Each Coach Must:**
 - Keep practice areas and locker rooms in order;
 - Store equipment neatly and use it properly;
 - Keep storage areas locked;
 - Present all work orders in writing to the proper personnel;
 - Maintain a detailed inventory of equipment and uniforms;
 - Present a detailed list of equipment and uniform needs to the school athletic director prior to March 1st of each school year.

SECTION II

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

Interscholastic athletics are to be administered as a part of the regular school program and be under the same administrative control as all other parts of the educational program. Only students enrolled in grades 7-12 will engage in interscholastic athletic events.

All interscholastic athletic events in which this school district participates will be conducted under the rules and regulations of the MHSAA.

Eligibility for competitive activities in grades 7-12 is determined according to the rules of the MHSAA. Students must meet all requirements established by the MHSAA.

All students participating in athletics will be required to have on file:

- 1. Written parent consent**
- 2. Proof of medical/health insurance**
- 3. Liability waiver signed by parent/legal guardian**
- 4. Medical screening by a licensed physician/Medical history**
- 5. Concussion form**
- 6. Transportation form**
- 7. Media consent form**

It is the explicit responsibility of the head coach of the athletic activity involved to ensure that all these requirements are completed and documentation is properly on file prior to any practice or event associated with the activity.

It is the responsibility of the school principal, the school athletic director and the head coach supervising the activity to determine eligibility of each participant in that activity, as governed by the regulations set forth by the MHSAA.

MISCELLANEOUS POLICIES

1. Undue Influence for Participation

- Student athletes shall be allowed to participate in as many sport seasons as the athlete and his/her parent's desire without influence from any coach to specialize in a sport. All coaches should encourage participation in other sports.**
- Athletes may choose the sport in which they wish to participate; however, once the season has begun, no one may change sport except in the following situations:**
 - Athletes cut from one sport for non-disciplinary reasons may try out for another sport.**
 - An athlete who is dropped from one sport for disciplinary reasons may not participate in another sport until that sport's season is completed.**
 - No athlete may begin another sport until the previous sport has been completed in its entirety without the consent of each coach involved and the athletic director.**

2. Criteria for Deleting Interscholastic Sports

- **The following criteria will be considered in depth prior to the deletion of an interscholastic sport:**
 - **Student interest declines to an unsatisfactory level both terms of participation and spectator attendance;**
 - **It becomes impossible to secure competent coaches;**
 - **Adequate facilities do not exist;**
 - **Adequate funding is not-longer feasible;**
 - **Scheduling of contests at local or regional level become impossible.**

NOTE: Recommendations to delete a sport will go through the office of the athletic director. All efforts to delete a sport will be made with as much advance notice as possible.

3. Criteria for Adding Interscholastic Sports

- **The following criteria will be considered prior to the addition of an interscholastic sport:**
 - **Strong student interest must be indicated;**
 - **The sport must be sanctioned by the MHSAA;**
 - **Adequate facilities must exist. It must be possible to coordinate use of facilities so as not to conflict with existing programs;**
 - **It must be possible to secure competent coaches;**
 - **Adequate funding must be available without diverting funds from existing programs;**
 - **Priority will be given to those sports that best equalize the opportunities for boys and girls.**

NOTE: Requests to add a sport must go through the office of the athletic director.

4. Postponing Contests

- **If a game is postponed due to weather or any other factor not conducive to good game conditions, the following practices should be followed:**
 - **Coaches confer with the school athletic director and school administration.**
- **Factors to be considered include:**
 - **Weather Conditions;**
 - **Playing conditions of the field;**
 - **Safe travel for team, opponents and officials;**
 - **Safety of spectators;**
 - **Damage to equipment;**
 - **Unforeseen circumstances (sickness, discipline, injuries, etc.).**
- **After considering these factors, it will then be left to the discretion of the school athletic director and the head coach to play or postpone a game. The head coach of the sport will reschedule the contest.**
- **Contact must be made with the following when a decision to cancel a contest is made:**
 - **School principals;**
 - **Coaches;**

- o Game Administrator;
- o Officials;
- o Security and game workers;
- o Team;
- o News media;
- o Any other person directly involved in operation of contest.

GUIDELINES FOR COACHES

1. The verification form which is a proof of insurance, proof of physical, parental release and eligibility requirements must be signed by the head coach and presented to the school athletic director prior to participation by a student athlete.
2. If a person contracts both to teach and to coach an athletic sport, any resignation he/she may subsequently submit for his/her coaching assignment will automatically constitute a bona fide resignation for his/her teaching assignment as well, unless a mutual agreement is made between the administration and the person involved.
3. Each coach will make every possible effort to assure that all athletes/cheerleaders exhibit behavior beyond reproach in classrooms, on the campus and in all athletic facilities.
4. Every coach is expected to have complete knowledge and understanding of the MHSAA Handbook of rules and regulations as well as the regulations and policies of the school district.
5. If an athlete quits a sport after the first regular season contest, he/she is not eligible to participate in another sport during that season unless there is an agreement between the two coaches who are involved.
6. Supervision is one of the most important aspects in coaching/teaching. All staff members must understand the liability factors regarding this policy. Failure to supervise students/athletes AT ALL TIMES could result in job termination.
7. It is the responsibility of the coach/sponsor to have an emergency plan of action in place with regard to injuries and/or emergency situations. Both home and travel situations must be covered under this plan.
8. If an athlete displays a lack of self-discipline, poor attitude, or failure to fulfill his/her commitments to the athletic/activities program, he/she will be suspended from participation in that sport or any other sport for the remainder of the season.
9. Head coaches supervise implementation, analyze staff effectiveness and use documentation as an accurate instrument in the evaluation of assistant coaches.

ADMITTANCE TO ACTIVITIES

Each sports activity is considered separate and apart from other activities. It is the responsibility of the coach to explain to student athletes the policy concerning activities that they may enter free of charge.

ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE

Student athletes are considered to be leaders of the school. The conduct and/or behavior of student athletes must be exemplary and a good example for all students to follow.

Therefore, the following policies concerning alcohol/drug abuse by student-athletes will be in effect:

1. Any student in this school district found to be in possession or under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs on the school campus or at any school sponsored activity (on campus or off campus) will be disciplined according to the school's disciplinary policy.
2. Any student athlete with confirmed possession or under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs off campus at non-school sponsored events will be subject to suspension from games in the sport which he/she is participating. Further incidents by the student will result in more serious disciplinary action.
3. Athletic drug and alcohol use and abuse are considered detrimental to the well-being of any student athlete. All members of the school district, student athletes, coaches, teachers and administration, believe that the use and abuse of drugs:
 - Is detrimental to the physical and mental health of its student-athletes.
 - Seriously interferes with the performance of individuals as students and as athletes.
 - o Create an unfair stigma for those student athletes who do not use or abuse drugs.
 - o Is extremely dangerous to the student athlete regarding his participation and performance.
4. Because of the genuine concern for the well- being of each student athlete, it is suggested that each coach:
 - Counsel student athletes concerning the serious consequences of alcohol and drug use.
 - Look for signs of alcohol/drug use such as:
 - o Unusual odor or appearance
 - o Serious mood swings
 - o Lethargic or highly irritable behavior.
 - o Alcohol or drug paraphernalia
 - o Consistently missed or tardiness for practices and games.
 - o Report any suspicion of alcohol or drug use to the athletic director, school administrators and school nurse.

NOTE: This policy is not intended to unduly interfere with the student athletes' private life or to bring hardship on the student athlete, but rather to protect their well-being and that of others associated with athletics in the school district.

ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT

Each head coach is directly responsible for the care and control of all equipment used in his/her program.

- Athletic equipment and supplies are purchased annually subject to the budgetary allocations approved by the school board.
- The head coach is responsible for taking an accurate inventory of equipment no later than ten (10) days following the official close of his/her sport, retaining one for his files and presenting one to the school athletic director.
- Requests for equipment and supplies should be made to the school athletic director following inventory, including style and colors.
- All equipment and supplies must be purchased according to school board policy.
- Athletic storerooms shall serve as receiving and disbursing points for all supplies and equipment.
- School athletic equipment shall not be worn by athletes except during practice and game periods. Exceptions may be made for special recognition days.
- Athletic equipment must be stored and secured by the head coach of each sport.
- Equipment must be properly cared for and each athlete should be properly fitted with athletic equipment.
- School owned athletic equipment will not be loaned to outside groups without the approval of the school athletic director. A written form for equipment loan should be signed and filed pending return of equipment.
- Athletic equipment that is issued and not returned must be paid for. Money is to be turned into the school athletic director.

ATHLETIC INJURIES

Injuries to athletes will occur in interscholastic sports regardless of precautions taken. However, safe playing conditions, proper coaching techniques, safe equipment and proper warnings concerning possible injuries are essential. A medical evacuation plan must be in place and on file with the ambulance services.

High School and Junior High School:

- The teacher/coach will report any major athletic injury requiring medical attention to the school athletic director. Notification of injury form is to be used and the report made the day of the injury.

Emergency Evacuation for Injured Athletes:

- The coach in charge of the activity is to assume the responsibility for the injured athlete. He/she must be prepared to recognize injuries and properly administer first aid and/or refer injured athletes to appropriate medical personnel.
- If needed, the coach or designated personnel should call for an ambulance or qualified medical assistance.
- Injured athletes should be accompanied by a coach who has been designated this responsibility.

- The coach accompanying the injured athlete should notify parents of the injury and the action taken. The coach should use discretion and not unduly alarm the parents. Under no circumstances should student managers or trainers be allowed to inform the parents of an injury.
- Either a personal visit to the hospital/home, or in less severe injuries, a telephone call by the head coach is a MUST following an injury to an athlete.
- An athletic injury report must be sent to the school athletic director the day following the injury.
- The emergency medical authorization card should always be in the team's medical kit. On this card is the athlete's parent's/guardian's home and work telephone numbers, other contact person, preferred physician and preferred hospital. Allergic medications should be included on this card.

ATHLETIC INSURANCE

It is the policy of the department of athletics to make certain that all students participating in athletics are insured under the school student insurance program or covered by their own family insurance.

AWARDS

High school students meeting the criteria for lettering in a sport will be awarded a varsity letter. These students will be allowed to purchase a school jacket at their own expense.

Athletic Letters In High School Are Determined By:

- Extent of game participation during the season.
- Number of years in athlete competition.
- Dependability on and off field.
- Attitude toward practices and training rules.
- Team Spirit.
- Sportsmanship.
- Attitude and behavior in the classroom and on campus.
- Return of equipment or payment for unreturned equipment prior to receiving awards.
- Completion of season, with exception of injured players who missed considerable time or who was unable to complete the season. (An award will be left to discretion of the coach)

Other Awards:

- Size and number of awards for MVP or similar awards must be approved by the school athletic director.
- Booster Club awards must be approved by the coach of the sport involved.

BOOSTER CLUB/SUPPORT GROUPS

The school district recognizes the value of the community support groups in relation to the student activities program and encourages participation of interested supporters and booster clubs to help promote greater community awareness.

Booster clubs should work with and coordinate all activities with the head coach by discussing plans and activities being considered for the school year.

The club will not attempt to influence or direct the policies of the school administration or coaches who are charged with the responsibility of conducting the athletics/activities programs in the school district.

The club should in no way violate the rules of the MHSAA.

The school athletic director and the coaches of the sports involved should work with the booster club/support groups on all of their projects.

CONDUCT OF COACHES

The conduct of a coach reflects on the integrity of the district as well as the coach. Coaches are in a position to influence young people and should strive to develop individual players and teams into units that will perform at their maximum ability.

To serve as a role model, a coach should give special attention to:

1. Language - Obscenity and profanity have no place in athletics.
2. Temper - Control of temper is imperative.
3. Challenging the judgment of the officials - The behavior of a coach often carries over to and influences the behavior of the team and fans.

COACHING SUPPLEMENTS

Coaching supplements are based on:

- Contract dates set by the superintendent.
- The length of the season beyond the teacher contract period.
- Planning, preparations, complexity of duties in a sport, number of participants, number of assistants, liability injury element, travel and number of scheduled events and care and accountability of equipment are all factors to be considered.
- Evaluations and budget considerations.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

Each coach must ensure that the individual athlete and the team is well disciplined. Coaches and athletes must remember that they represent the school district and should exhibit good sportsmanship at all times.

- If, for any reason, a coach deems it necessary to suspend an athlete from participation or from the team, he/she must notify the parent, principal, and athletic director.
- The parent may appeal a suspension or dismissal to the coach involved.
- If an athlete is suspended from the team for the remainder of the season, he/she forfeits credit toward any awards or letterman status.
- If an athlete is suspended from a team, he/she may not participate in any other sport until the sport from which he/she has been suspended is over.
- Coaches are responsible for providing written copies of rules and regulations to parents and players prior to the beginning of a sport season.

DUAL SPORT PARTICIPATION

If a student athlete/cheerleader elects to participate in two activities during the same season, the following procedure will be followed:

- When students have to choose between properly scheduled activities, there will be no loss of credit or reduction of grade.
- All coaches/sponsors must understand this rule and not place undue pressure on the student.

EJECTION OF COACHES/STUDENTS-MHSAA REGULATIONS

The school will be assessed a minimum fine of \$300 in the event a coach is ejected from an athletic contest.

A fine of \$300 will be levied against the school if:

- A team leaves the bench and comes onto the playing area.
- A team, or members of the team, becomes involved in a fight between arrival and departure of an athletic contest.

Any student ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct or a flagrant foul will be ineligible for the next seven (7) calendar days at the same level, or any level of participation at which he/she was ejected. If no contests are scheduled during this period of time at the same level as the ejection, the student will be ineligible for the next football game or a minimum of two (2) contests in any other sport. If the ejection occurs in the last contest of the season, the student will be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the next sport in which the student participates. It is the responsibility of the local school authorities to ensure this rule is enforced. When an ineligible athlete or student is allowed to participate, forfeiture of the contest is mandatory. This rule applies to all regular season and postseason play.

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

Rules for student athletic participation shall include:

- Sixth grade students will not be allowed to participate on a high school or junior high school athletic team.
- Student participation in the Jones County School District's athletic programs will be governed by the rules and regulations of the Jones County School District and the

MHSAA Handbook. They must meet all residency and academic requirements set forth by these organizations.

- **Eligibility for student participation in all athletics and activities must be submitted to the Mississippi High School Activities Association electronically via DragonFly software program. All students must be updated at the beginning of each school and at the end of the first semester.**
- **All participants in athletics and activities must be on DragonFly roster prior to playing in a sport or participating in an activity.**

GAME SUPERVISION

The school athletic director, the principal, the assistant principal or the designated game or meet supervisor is responsible for supervision at interscholastic contests.

Head coaches are responsible for the squad, including managers, etc., during athletic contests.

Problems/complaints should be reported immediately to the school director.

A security plan for all student activities must be in place with MHSAA. It must be clearly understood by administrators, coaches, security and working personnel.

PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION

1. Public Relations:

An effective on-going public relations program must be established and maintained at a high level of positive action. Good publicity and promotion provide the key to the success and survival of any athletic program.

- **Responsibilities:**
 1. **The school athletic director is responsible for any promotions and/or publicity that originate from within the athletic program.**
- **Head coaches and their staff are responsible for reporting news items and game results. They should promote their sport by:**
 1. **Releasing schedules prior to the beginning of the season.**
 2. **Distributing team brochures, schedule cards and calendars.**
 3. **Releasing conference, district and state news items through the appropriate news channels.**
 4. **Holding weekly/monthly meetings with booster clubs and parents to discuss the season.**
 5. **Using bulletin boards in school buildings to promote the athletic program.**
 6. **Providing contest results to news media promptly.**

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Each head coach is responsible for establishing rules and regulations for his/her particular sport. A copy must be on file with the principal and school athletic director. Copies must be provided to the parents and players.

Policy handbook rules and regulations must be adhered to.

SAFETY PROCEDURES AND ATHLETES

Coaches and/or sponsors must work to minimize the number and degree of seriousness of athletic injuries.

Safety procedures that must be adhered to include:

- Establish an emergency plan of action for practice and home as well as away contests.
- Report any known unsafe facilities or equipment to the school athletic director.
- Provide first aid and medical care to all injured athletes.
- Inform football participants of the danger of spear-tackling and head blocking.
- Provide frequent water breaks and be aware of high humidity.
- Cancel or postpone practice or games when conditions are unsafe due to lightning, unstable or severe inclement weather.
- Attend clinics that provide training and annual review of CPR and athletic connected injuries.
- Enforce required use of mouthpieces by all football players in practice/games.
- Attend in-service training workshops covering emergency situations, emergency plans of action and other safety procedures.
- Contact ambulance services prior to season outlining directions and entrances to provide directions for the quickest route possible to reach injured athletes.

SPORTS WAIVER/PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

Due to the possibility of injury and the necessity of medical attention, no student will be allowed to engage in high school or junior high school sports until written permission has been received by the head coach and presented to the school athletic director stating that the parent is aware that his/her child is involved in school activities. The parent/guardian further accepts the responsibility for any injuries that might be incurred by participation or for any injury or problem stemming from such injury. Written permission includes proof of medical insurance for their child.

Each participant in grades 7-12 must have undergone a physical examination by a licensed medical doctor or have a statement from his/her family physician stating that he/she is medically cleared to participate in any given sport.

SQUAD SELECTION

Coaches are encouraged to keep as many students on the athletic team as possible without unbalancing the integrity of the sport. Time, space, facilities, equipment and other similar factors will place limitations on the size of the squad.

Selecting athletic squads is the sole responsibility of the coaches in a particular sport. Prior to tryouts, the coach must provide the following information to those who wish to try out:

1. Extent of tryout period;
2. Criteria in selection of team;
3. Squad size;
4. Required practice commitment if selected;
5. Required game commitment

SUPERVISION

Athletic facilities are made available only to team members and then only with a member of the coaching staff present and on duty. There will be no unsupervised practice sessions.

Any staff member who chooses to ignore this area of responsibility assumes all liability related to the lack of supervision.

TRAVEL

Transportation:

- All travel arrangements will be made by the school athletic director after consulting with the coach involved.
- A travel list must be on file in the office of the principal by noon at least one day prior to departure.
- Athletes will travel on school sanctioned vehicles to out of town events.
- The coach must provide protection and supervision of students in the event of an accident or breakdown.
- Only assigned school personnel may travel via school transportation. (no spectators or parents)
- All coaches/band directors/sponsors are required to attend the school bus training school, which includes driving, testing, and drug screening in order to obtain a Commercial Driver's License (CDL). All coaches/band directors/sponsors within the Jones County School District will be required to possess a commercial driver's license and be responsible for transporting your teams to away games/contests. If you have a medical excuse, you need to have a copy of it on file from your doctor.
- Field trip forms shall be properly completed for each student.
- Any out of state clinics/camps where students are required to attend must be transported on a charter bus.

Supervision of Athletes:

- When athletes are transported to or from athletic contests, a coach must accompany the squad.
- Obscene language and roughhouse tactics will not be tolerated.
- The discipline and good behavior of the squad is the responsibility of the coach.
- The coach in charge is responsible for returning buses in clean condition following trips.
- All other policies included in the policy manual or student handbook must be followed.

Meal Reservations When Going to a Restaurant:

- Meal reservations must be made by the school athletic director after consulting with the coach involved.
- Time and distance are factors to be considered in scheduling meals.
- Meal arrangements will include only members of the traveling squad, coaches, and police escorts and bus drivers. All athletes must eat together.
- The coach in charge is responsible for signing meal charge tickets and submitting them to the school athletic director upon return.
- All other policies included in the policy manual or student handbook must be followed.

Hotel Reservations:

The school athletic director makes hotel reservations for athletic teams.

Transportation to Special Events:

- Transportation to special events will be provided by licensed public carriers or school activity buses.
- Under no circumstances shall a student or player be permitted to drive an activity bus for any trip. Students are required to ride the activity bus to all events or activities held outside of Jones County. However, students may be allowed to drive their personal vehicles to events or activities taking place within Jones County, with prior approval as required.
- Requests for transportation of athletic teams or cheerleaders will be initiated by the teacher/coach. This request must be in the office of the transportation director at least one week prior to the trip.
- Each coach, responsible for a particular sport, will be responsible for the conduct of these students from the time they leave school until they return.
- Coach driving a bus must observe all traffic laws.
- Upon completion of the trip, coaches and/or drivers will be responsible for returning the trip report sheet to the transportation director.

Removal of Students from Classes:

The removal of a student from class for participation in an athletic event works a hardship on both the teacher and the student and will be held to a minimum in all sports.

School Sponsored Trips:

All students who go on school sponsored trips are to return with their respective sponsors and group unless given permission to return with their parent/legal guardian. The parent/guardian must personally present written permission prior to trip departure to the head coach for their child to be released to them. Special travel arrangements to and from school sponsored activities must be cleared with the principal prior to the activity.

WEIGHT ROOMS

Coaches are required to supervise weight rooms on a schedule established by the athletic director and/or head coach.

Weight Room Rules:

- **Shirts and shoes are required.**
- **No one is allowed in the weight room without authorized supervision.**
- **Weights are to be returned to the rack immediately following use.**
- **Students must work under the supervision of an instructor assigned to the weight room.**
- **Each student should work with the instructor to determine individual limits.**
- **Roughhousing and horseplay are not tolerated in the weight room.**
- **Gum, food or drinks are not allowed in the weight room.**
- **Use of weight room facilities by outside groups or school personnel must be approved by the school athletic director.**

SAFETY TIPS

Proper selection, fit, use and maintenance of athletic equipment are critical to the prevention of catastrophic accidents.

- **Daily inspection by athletes, periodic inspection by coaches, and seasonal evaluation by an expert is required.**
- **Use only qualified equipment sanctioned by the district. “Youth” equipment is not intended for high school use.**
- **Do not modify from manufacturer’s specifications.**
- **Be aware of intended use and limits of protective capability established by the manufacturer, and use only according to those intentions and within those limitations.**
- **Keep equipment in top repair.**
- **Maintain an adequate inventory of spare parts and extra units of immediate repair or replacement of damaged items.**
- **Use of equipment, and if necessary the activity, shall be suspended until damaged items are repaired or replaced.**

- Dispose of unrepairable or obsolete equipment from all sports pursuant to district policy.
- Guides for the fitting of protective headgear are as follows. Specific manufacturer's instructions must also be obtained.

FITTING OF HELMETS

Most manufacturers have their own guides for the fitting of helmets, and these should be followed. In addition, the following general guide applies to all helmets:

- It should cover the base of the skull.
- It should not shift when manual pressure is applied.
- It should not recoil upon impact.
- The ear and ear cut-cut should match.
- The front edge of the helmet shell should sit $\frac{3}{4}$ inch above the player's eye brows.
- The chin strap should be equal distance from the center of the helmet.
- The check pads should fit snugly against the sides of the face. ALL helmets must meet *NO CASE specifications. NOTE: A deteriorated or modified helmet will not meet NO CASE requirements, even though it bears a NO CASE seal or sticker.

*National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment

South Central Regional Medical Center provides athletic trainers and/or physicians at most athletic events. Any additional medical and injury evaluation is to be conducted by either these athletic trainers or physicians present.

GUIDELINES FOR GAME ADMINISTRATORS

The MHSAA requires that each host school have a game administrator that is in charge of each athletic contest.

The MHSAA Executive Committee further designates that the Game Administrator in varsity contests in football, softball, basketball, volleyball, soccer and baseball be an administrator or his/her designee and this shall be someone other than the participating coach.

The principals of member MHSAA schools are to properly plan for game administrators to be present at all home contests. The use of proper event planning will, hopefully, insure the successful hosting of the event.

Prior to any varsity contest in the sports listed above the game administrator is required to conduct a pre-game meeting with the game officials, security, and both head coaches. The purpose of this meeting is to make sure that all individuals understand their role in the athletic contest. They should understand the level of expected conduct each is to display. This meeting may include information of the following nature:

- *Welcome by Game Administrator.
- *Introduction of those present.

***Reminder to officials that the MHSAA Executive Committee supports their efforts and that they are expected to enforce the playing rules.**

***Reminder to coaches that they are expected to display the highest level of conduct at all times.**

***Reminder to coaches that they should instruct their players to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times.**

***Security should be identified and reminded that they must follow the security plan established by the host school.**

***Game administrators should identify where they will be located during the game should game officials or security need them for any reason.**

***Each school is responsible for the conduct of their fans and student body. If, however, a fan acts in an unsportsmanlike manner and it is recognized and reported by the game official to the game administrator, the game administrator should handle the situation in an appropriate manner.**

****Game administrators, coaches, and officials shall not start any varsity contest in football, volleyball, softball, basketball, soccer, and baseball until the pre-game meeting has been held.**

SECTION III

CHEERLEADER

CHEERLEADER TRYOUT APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Cell # _____ Home # _____

Parent Information:

Father: _____ Mother: _____

Guardian: _____

Father's work # _____ Mother's work # _____

Cell # _____ Cell # _____

Current Physical: (Attach form): _____

Overall grade point average: _____ Birthdate: _____

Heart Condition or disease?	Yes	No	Asthma?	Yes	No
Diabetes?	Yes	No	Allergic to medication?	Yes	No
Convulsions?	Yes	No	Allergic to insect stings?	Yes	No

State allergies: _____

Date of last tetanus shot: _____

Additional medical information that may be helpful: _____

Any medication currently receiving: _____

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE RULES AND REGULATIONS INVOLVED WITH CHEERLEADING/MASCOT. I AGREE TO ALLOW MY DAUGHTER/SON _____, TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS ACTIVITY. I ALSO AGREE TO MEET ALL FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS IN A TIMELY MANNER.

Parent's signature: _____ Date: _____

Participant's signature: _____ Date: _____

CHEERLEADER RULES AND REGULATIONS

Approved: January 2011

Updated: March 2022

CHEERLEADER CREED: To promote and uphold school spirit; to develop a sense of good sportsmanship among the students; to better the relationship between schools during all athletic events.

TRYOUTS

ELIGIBILITY

- Students shall be academically eligible based on MHSAA eligibility standards.
- Show an overall “S” average in conduct without a “U” in any course.
- Any student who has an “N” or “U” in conduct the nine weeks previous to selection may ask for a review by the principal and sponsor to determine eligibility.
- A physical from a physician must be uploaded to DragonFly and/or submitted to the cheer sponsor prior to tryouts.
- A school or personal insurance card must be uploaded to DragonFly and/or submitted to the cheer sponsor prior to tryouts (copy of the front and back of the insurance card).
- Must attend school in the school district where his/her parents are actual bona fide residents or meet the requirements of the M.H.S.A.A. prior to the selection process. 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 parent from traveling out of state where his work requires him to do so, provided he returns to home periodically and considers the home as his legal, permanent residence. The family mail must also be received where the family lives.

PROCEDURE

- Sign up with the sponsor so that academic and citizenship grades can be checked for eligibility.
- Attend any meeting for the explanation of rules.
- Obtain a copy of the rules from the sponsor and obtain parental permission to try out for cheerleader.
- Return the permission slip to the sponsor with the designated fee.
- Attend cheer clinic to be held prior to tryouts and taught by qualified personnel. Each student will learn material taught at the clinic.
- Try out for cheerleader before a panel of judges.
- Bring a copy of the physical you uploaded to DragonFly to tryouts.
- Bring a copy of the school or personal insurance card you uploaded to DragonFly to tryouts.
- Any other forms must be completed and uploaded to DragonFly and/or submitted to the cheer sponsor.
- Parents and visitors will remain outside the tryout area.

- Immediately prior to tryout competition, the cheerleaders participating will draw a number to designate the order in which the tryouts will proceed.
- Cheerleader tryout participants will remain in a designated area during tryouts.
- The administration or designee will appoint a certified employee to total the scores. School administrators must be informed of all tryouts and will work with the sponsor to insure that the procedures are adhered to.

JUDGING

1. Will be conducted by a panel of judges selected from professional organizations from outside the school district. A request will be made to have an ethnically diverse panel of 3 judges. Judges are not to be selected by the sponsor. Judges should be requested from one of the local universities, colleges, UCA, or NCA.
2. Selection will be based on the total score of the judges.
3. The cheerleaders that will be selected for the cheerleading squad will be based on a natural point break. This means the candidates with the highest scores before the natural break will be named to the squad. (A natural break is defined as a point which scores differ significantly.) The minimum number of cheerleaders that will be selected to be on the junior varsity/varsity cheerleading squad will be 12.
4. The cheerleader coach will select the cheerleaders that will participate on the competition squad if that school chooses to compete in the cheerleading championships. These numbers will be dependent upon competing in large group or small group categories.

PARTICIPATION

Students entering grades 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 will be allowed to try out for the Junior High, Junior Varsity, and Varsity cheerleading squads, as long as they meet all the eligibility requirements and follow the correct procedures for trying out. Students that make these squads (JH, JV, and V) will have to follow all the rules and regulations that are in the cheerleading handbook.

Students entering grade 7 will be allowed to try out and participate with the Junior High cheerleading squad, as long as they meet all eligibility requirements and follow the correct procedures for trying out. Students entering grade 7 that try out and make the Junior High cheerleading squad will be labelled as a developmental/spirit squad and will be able to cheer with the Junior High cheerleading squad at the Junior High football games. This grade 7 developmental/spirit squad will practice with the Junior High cheerleading squad. Those practice times and schedules will be made by the cheer coach. Also, the students on the grade 7 developmental/spirit squad will have to follow all the rules and regulations that are in the cheerleading handbook. There will be no minimum number on the developmental/spirit squad.

Grade 7 – Developmental/Spirit Squad (Junior High)
 Grade 8 – Junior High
 Grade 9 – Junior High/Junior Varsity
 Grade 10 – Junior Varsity/Varsity

**Grade 11 – Varsity
Grade 12 - Varsity**

CHEERLEADER LETTERING

Varsity cheerleaders who successfully complete their sophomore cheer season will earn their letterman jacket. If the cheerleader is injured and is unable to complete the season, but is in good standing, she will receive a letterman jacket. The cheerleader must provide written documentation from a physician stating she is unable to participate in cheerleading due to the injury. Cheerleaders will receive only one letterman jacket during their high school career. The jacket may be awarded during the sophomore, junior, or senior year.

BEHAVIOR

Cheerleaders will be expected to maintain at least an “S” average. Should a cheerleader receive a “U” in citizenship in any class because of inappropriate behavior in that classroom, the cheerleader will be placed on probation and will not be allowed to try out for cheerleader in the spring. Cheerleaders are also expected to behave in manner becoming to a student of the Jones County Schools. Cheerleaders are representatives of Jones County Schools and should act accordingly while in uniform and while not in uniform. This behavior is required on and off campus as addressed in the current Jones County Student Handbook. The sponsor and the administration will evaluate any demonstration of unbecoming behavior which could result in probation or removal from the squad. If improvements are not made within two weeks, the student will be given an administrative hearing with the administration and the sponsor.

See Demerit---The administration will not reschedule detention around a cheerleader’s practice.

SUSPENSION

Cheerleaders suspended from school (this includes in-school suspension) for any reason will not be eligible to participate in any cheerleader activity during the suspension week. This includes practice, pep rallies, or games. The cheerleader will automatically be placed on probation. See Demerits.

NOTE: If at any time after tryouts an elected cheerleader quits the squad, he/she will not be allowed to try out the following spring.

CHEERLEADER PRACTICE

The sponsor will schedule all cheerleader practices. The sponsor must attend all practices. Prior to missing practice, the cheerleader must notify the sponsor in advance in person, by

phone, or by email. Taking cheerleaders home from practice or remaining after practice is not the responsibility of the sponsor. Cheerleaders should not remain on the school premises after practice has ended unless supervised by some other school official.

PARENTS, BOYFRIENDS, AND OTHER GUESTS

Parents, boyfriends and other guests are not permitted at practices.

ABSENCES - PRACTICE AND GAMES

Absences will be excused only for emergencies, personal illness, death in the family, or school-sponsored activities. Cheerleaders who miss a game without an excused absence will not be able to cheer at the following game or pep rally. Cheerleaders missing a second game will not be able to cheer at the following two pep rallies and the following two games. (The cheerleader will attend the pep rallies and/or game and sit with the sponsor).

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

Cheerleaders have a number of responsibilities (list will be provided once on the team). Cheerleaders will also be expected to follow additional rules set by the sponsor. Continual failure to carry out assigned tasks will result in probation and the cheerleader will not be able to participate in other activities.

Disclaimer: BOTH CHEERLEADER AND PARENTS MUST UNDERSTAND WHEN THEY GIVE THEIR CHILD PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE IN CHEERLEADING IT MAY CAUSE PHYSICAL INJURY, WHICH MAY RESULT IN PERMANENT BODILY INJURY OR DEATH.

CAPTAINS

The captain and co-captain will be elected prior to the announcement of the tryouts for the following year. The captain and co-captain will not be required to try out for cheerleader the following spring. The captain and co-captain will be elected from the junior class cheerleaders.

TRAVEL

Cheerleader squads must travel to out-of-county games as a group under the supervision of the sponsor. If the cheerleader is not returning with the group, the student's parent or guardian must sign their child out at the end of the event.

PROBATION

A cheerleader can be placed on probation for suspension, both ISS and OSS, being issued 7 demerits or possessing tobacco or any type of vape or vape products.

Cheerleaders placed on probation will not participate in any cheerleader activity, but will be required to attend all practices and learn all new material that week. The length of the probation period is to be determined by the cheer sponsor/coach based on the violation committed. Additional occurrences of the same violation may result in removal from the cheerleading squad.

EXPENSES Attached

Each school will provide the students with an approximate expense sheet and keep parents/cheerleaders informed of expenses throughout the year.

MERITS

YEAR ROUND

- 3 Merits cancel 1 demerit
- 3 Honor Roll
- 4 Perfect attendance record for 9 weeks

MERITS/DEMERITS

All merits and demerits received by the student will be approved by the sponsor and will be in effect for one year. At the end of the year, the slate will be wiped clean and each cheerleader will start from “0”. A student may cancel demerits by acquiring merits during the semester. The ratio is three merits for each demerit. A member accumulating 10 demerits during a year will be dismissed from the organization. Merit/Demerit accumulations will be for one year. All students will begin with a “0” at the beginning of tryouts.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Jones County Schools subscribes to the principles of dignity of all students. Therefore, it shall be the policy of the school district that race, color, religion, national origin or sex will not be a factor in the selection of cheerleaders.

DEMERITS

Cheerleaders will be given demerits whenever necessary. The sponsor will assign them. Cheerleaders may accumulate only 10 demerits from the time they are selected at tryouts until tryouts the next spring. When a cheerleader earns the 11th demerit, she will be removed from the squad immediately. She will not receive her letter jacket and she will not be eligible to try out the following spring. Demerits can stack up on one another.

Demerits will be given as follows:

- 1 - For being tardy to practice or to a game unless the reason for being tardy is due to attendance at some other school-sponsored activity
- 1 - For using a cell phone at practice or a game
- 1 - For leaving practice early unless authorized by sponsor

- 1 - For wearing the incorrect uniform to school or failing to wear uniform on appropriate day
- 1 - For not wearing tennis shoes and appropriate clothes to practice
- 1 - For being disrespectful to another squad member
- 1 - For wearing jewelry or longer than sports length fingernails at practice, pep rallies, or games
- 2 - For missing practice during the year due to detention
- 2 - For not painting at practice
- 2 - For leaving practice to visit friends, thus causing a delay in practice
- 2 - For not assisting in clean up after practice, games, and pep rallies
- 2 - For leaving the cheerleaders at a game to visit with friends or family or to get something to eat whenever unauthorized
- 3 - For failing to take down signs after the pep rally or after the games or for failing to help hang signs (gym, goal post, field, locker, etc.)
- 3 - For not performing one's responsibility as a cheerleader
- 3 - For missing practice unauthorized during the year
- 4 - For behavior unbecoming of a cheerleader during the game, while in uniform, as a group, or during school hours
- 4 - For being suspended from school (OSS or ISS), which will result in automatic probation (Cheerleaders will not participate in cheer activities. – see rules)
- *Second suspension will result in the cheerleader being dismissed from the squad
- *5 - For academic or behavior probation – will not participate in cheer activity, must attend game, practice, pep rally, and other cheer functions and sit with the sponsor
- 6 - For possession of tobacco, a vape/vape product or electronic cigarette
- 7 - Disrespect to the sponsor
- 7 - For causing dissension between members of the squad

****Social media issues will be addressed on a case by case basis.**

****Cheerleaders will be immediately dismissed from the squad for possessing, using, transmitting, or being under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, toxicant inhalant, or other intoxicant, or smoking tobacco while in uniform while representing the organization on a school bus, or at any school-sponsored activity.**

CONSEQUENCES

- 1. 1 – 6 demerits – Cheer sponsor/coach discretion
- 2. 7 demerits – The cheerleader will be placed on probation.
- 3. 11 demerits – Removal from the squad.

All other consequences will be handled by the cheer sponsor/coach on a case-by-case basis.

HEAD CHEERLEADER RESPONSIBILITIES

The head cheerleader is responsible for the following, but only with full knowledge and authorization from the sponsor.

1. Providing leadership at all times and promoting unity among the squad
2. Enforcing all cheerleader rules and regulations
3. Assisting in organizing all pep rallies and getting a typed agenda to the sponsor the Wednesday before the pep rally
4. Assisting in coordinating all clean up after practice, pep rallies, and games
5. Assisting in coordinating all activities at games (putting up field signs, hanging the goal post sign, forming the spirit line, initiating chants)
7. Assisting with the cheerleader tryouts each spring
8. Cooperating with the sponsor and administration at all times

CHEERLEADER/MASCOT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Cheerleaders are responsible at all times to the SPONSOR.
2. They will be on time for practice, games, and competitions.
3. They will notify the sponsor in advance when they are unable to attend practice, when they will be late to practice, and when they must leave practice early.
4. They will run the players on the field at the beginning of the game and after halftime.
5. They will not socialize with friends during the ballgame.
6. They will assist in cleaning up after each practice, pep rally, and game.
7. They will not deface school property.
8. They will participate in pom-pom routines and any other activity approved by the sponsor.
9. They will be expected to wear their uniforms or designated outfit to school on game days.
10. Cheerleaders and mascot must attend the football banquet.
11. While at practice, cheerleaders must be properly attired (tennis shoes, warm-ups, shorts – not school clothes) in order to maintain safety.
12. Cheerleaders must observe certain precautions in grooming and apparel while in uniform or practice: fingernails must be trimmed; no false fingernails; no jewelry; no glitter; and no metal hair clips.
13. If a cheerleader has a job or cheers for an elite squad, she must arrange her work or practice schedule around cheerleader activities, practices, games, etc. The squad does not work around your job or elite cheer squad.
14. Cheerleaders are selected to cheer at ballgames and promote school spirit; therefore, any extra cheerleader competitions (mall, fairgrounds, regional, or state activities) will be left to the discretion of the sponsor.
15. The sponsor will schedule all practices.

SPONSORS

Each sponsor must be a certified employee of the Jones County School System teaching in grades 7-12 and be certified by NCA or UCA. He or she must follow guidelines set forth by the MHSAA. Sponsors and administration are ultimately responsible for successfully implementing guidelines for MHSAA. The cheerleader sponsor will be responsible for organizing all tryout camps and must supervise the tryouts to insure that tryouts are conducted in a safe manner.

GYMNASTICS

Gymnastics is not a requirement to try out for cheerleader.

SCORE SHEET - CHEERLEADER TRYOUTS

Cheerleader # _____ Judge # _____ Year _____

Description and Categories

Entrance	Low	High	Comments
Run-out	1 2 3 4 5		
Overall appearance	1 2 3 4 5		
Jumps - 3 advanced	1 2 3 4 5		
Tumbling	1 2 3 4 5		
Cheer			
Projection - voice, spirit, enthusiasm	1 2 3 4 5		
Technique - placement, sharpness	1 2 3 4 5		
Incorporation - jumps and/or tumbling	1 2 3 4 5		
Chant			
Projection - voice, spirit, enthusiasm	1 2 3 4 5		
Technique - placement	1 2 3 4 5		
Knowledge of material	1 2 3 4 5		
Dance Routine			
Knowledge of Routine - sequences	1 2 3 4 5		
Skill, coordination, timing, rhythm	1 2 3 4 5		
Spirit and enthusiasm	1 2 3 4 5		
Total Score			

SECTION IV**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ATHLETES****Level of Offenses and Disciplinary Actions:**

Minor Offenses:

- Inappropriate classroom behavior.
- Tardiness or missed practices/meeting without proper excuse.
- Inappropriate dress.

Disciplinary Actions:

- Verbal correction.
- Conference with parents.
- Sitting out a game or games.

Major Offenses:

- Defacing or destroying school property.
- Fighting.
- Stealing.
- Committing forgery.
- Defying a coach or school authority.
- Causing disruption in school or on a school bus.
- Leaving school grounds or assigned areas without permission.
- Use of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances.
- Smoking.
- Display of poor attitude or lack of self-discipline.
- Boycotting team for any reason.

Disciplinary Actions:

- Parental conference.
- Sitting out a game or games.
- Dismissal from program for a specified period of time.
- Permanent dismissal from program.
- Any other action deemed appropriate by the administration.

These responses shall be cumulative to those disciplinary measures set forth in the student handbook. A student who commits a major offense may also be subjected to suspension or expulsion. A copy of this code shall be posted for all athletes to review.

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

Signature of
Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

**ATHLETICS DISMISSAL/WITHDRAWAL
PARENT NOTIFICATION**

Date: _____

Name of Student: _____ **Sport:** _____

Student's School: _____ **Grade:** _____

Dismissal/Withdrawal Date: _____

Reasons for Dismissal/Withdrawal:

_____ **Voluntary**
_____ **Violation of Team Training Rules**
_____ **Violation of Activity Participation Policies**
_____ **Other**

Brief Description of Circumstances: _____

Signature of Coach: _____

Signature of School Athletic Director: _____

Signature of Principal: _____

SECURITY PLAN

School: _____

Superintendent: _____ **Principal:** _____

Athletic Director: _____

When preparing the plan you need to involve the following people: administrators, coaches, cheerleaders' sponsors, band directors, security personnel and game announcers. Keep in mind that this plan will be for all sports realizing that the major sports such as football and basketball will require more supervision. All plans must be signed by the superintendent, principal and athletic director. Copies of the security plan should be given to all personnel involved in any way with the conduct of the game.

The plan should include security precautions:

- Before the contest.
- During the contest.
- After the contest.

Use this checklist naming the persons and their titles responsible for each area. Below each line are suggested personnel for each area.

Before the game:

1. Discuss with the student body in an assembly the need for showing good sportsmanship to visitors. It is suggested that all schools have a sportsmanship campaign at the beginning of each school year and promote sportsmanship throughout the year.

Principal, A.D.
Coaches,
Cheerleader

2. Make available the necessary game information to visiting schools; include directions for game parking, location to ticket booths, seating arrangements, ticket prices, game time, and directions for reaching the site.

Principal, A.D.

3. Arrange for adequate police supervision and keep them visible inside, as well as outside the stadium. Indicate on a chart where they will be located before, during, and after the game. Make sure that you have proper security in areas that you know could be trouble spots. You will need to send in charts for football and basketball.

Principal, A.D.

4. (Courtesy and protection of game officials) Arrange for someone to meet the officials. (Follow the plan that we suggested last year) Provide escorts for officials on and off the field. See that officials are treated well after the game and escorted to their car.

Principal, A.D.

5. Have the game announcer read the statements on sportsmanship, alcohol and drug use, as well as throwing objects and unruly behavior. Any of these violations will lead to expulsion from the game. (This should also be read during the game.)

Game Announcer

6. When possible designate special seating for students, bands, adults and visitors. Student bodies should be kept separated at all times.

Principal, A.D.

7. Provide supervised parking. Use of service clubs or youth organizations is suggested. This will free your law enforcement officials to be in other possible trouble spots.

Principal, A.D.

8. All faculty members or personnel that are helping supervise or are on duty for the contest should be identified. This could be done by special T-shirts, arm bands, caps, etc., anything that will let people know they are on duty and there for assistance if needed.

Principal, A.D

During the Game:

1. Station personnel in key areas. They will remain in these areas throughout the contest until the areas have cleared.

Principal, A.D.

2. The visiting administration must realize that they have responsibility for supervising their students and fans. (However, there should be assignments for supervision from the host school on the visiting side. Their main duty would be to keep students from the home side from coming over to the visitor's side. They would also be available for any assistance needed by the visitors.)

**Asst. Principal
Faculty Member**

3. Bands need to provide an interesting half-time program. (For those schools that do not have bands, an interesting half-time program should be planned. Work with P.T.A. groups and get others involved with ideas.)

**Band Director
Principal**

4. When possible have a doctor in attendance at athletic contests. (We know that it is difficult for some of our schools to obtain the services of a doctor for all athletic contests, but feel that if possible we need one in attendance at football games.)

Administration,
Principal, A.D.

5. P.A. announcers should give instructions concerning concession stands, restrooms, and any information that will assist the visiting fans. He or she should show no partiality when announcing the athletic contest.

P.A. Announcer

After the Game:

Planning for after the contest is probably the most important of the three stages in crowd control. Most incidents and encounters occur after the game when the fans are leaving the playing area and students leaving in cars and buses.

1. Develop a procedural plan for the exit of teams, officials, and spectators. You will need to keep personnel on duty in the trouble spots until the area clears.

Usual Problem – Security is usually released near the end of the game to direct traffic. It is suggested that security be kept in problem areas.

Principal, A.D.

2. Direct the route for movement of all visiting school buses and all home team buses. (Include band, pep buses, spectator buses, etc.) Whenever possible provide an escort for these buses for several blocks as they leave the site.

Principal, A.D.
Communicate with Police or Security

3. Use the P.A. system to (1) caution spectators about not walking on the floor or field, (2) give directions for leaving the area, (3) drive safety.

P.A. Announcer

4. To facilitate orderly movement of traffic lines, provide direct (local police may help) supervision for cars leaving the parking area. You may want to use faculty members or a service club in order that you can better utilize police or security.

Principal, A.D.

After making assignments and discussing the different areas involved, the principal and athletic director should discuss all details of the plan with the superintendent. The MHSAA office knows if we take every precaution possible and follow through with this

plan that we may not stop all of the trouble, but at least we will be in a position to react to trouble. Better planning by all concerned can help avoid many of the problems we have had in the past.

After reviewing and signing the plans, please send them to the MHSAA office before your first home contest. If a problem occurs that requires review or a hearing, the plans can be reviewed and those schools that have followed through with the plans will have done what they could to prevent the problem.

Please keep in mind you may include any additional information to the above plan.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION WAIVER FORM

As a student in this school district and an active participant in school sponsored athletic trips, I will abide by the following rules and regulations stating that:

- **I have received a copy of written rules and regulations concerning my participation in athletic events.**
- **I have completed and returned to the proper authorities all required documents for travel one week prior to trip departure.**
- **I fully understand that a violation of these rules can result in disciplinary action as stated in the student handbook.**