

# Athlete/Parent Handbook



## Administration

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**STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

- WE BELIEVE: that interscholastic athletics are an integral part of a school's curriculum.
- WE BELIEVE: that participation in a wide variety of interscholastic sports programs contributes positively toward the development of a young person's health, physical ability, social competence and discipline.
- WE BELIEVE: that the experiences of rigorous interscholastic athletic competition contribute significantly toward the emotional and moral stability of our young people.
- WE BELIEVE: in providing a well-balanced and organized program of interscholastic athletics for girls and boys, and in managing and operating this program within the guidelines and policies of the District School Board of Pasco County and the Florida High School Athletic Association.

### **Academics First**

All WCHS athletes are required to have a 2.0 unweighted GPA in order to be eligible to participate in sports. This includes practice. The AD and Coaches will be checking grades periodically to make sure athletes are maintaining adequate grades for participation. Furthermore, the AD will do a grade check each quarter. Any student with more than 2 Fs or fewer than 9 quality points will be deemed ineligible until the next progress report.

### **Chain-of-Command**

Please adhere to the following steps whenever important information regarding any aspect of the athletic program- including concerns, grievances, or questions- must be communicated:

1. Players must first speak to their Coaches.
2. Assistant Coaches must speak to the Head Coach in their sport.  
If the matter involves two programs, the Head Coaches must first discuss the matter.  
If any Player, Parent, or Assistant Coach approaches the Athletic Director or Administration, they are referred immediately to the Head Coach.
3. A parent can request a meeting with the head coach if a problem persists after the student athlete has spoken to the coach.

## **TO BE ELIGIBLE TO REPRESENT WESLEY CHAPEL HIGH SCHOOL IN ATHLETIC CONTESTS**

### **Prior to the first practice session, all students must have:**

1. A current physical examination.  
**Preparticipation Physical Evaluation Must be on EL2 FHSAA form**
2. A signed and notarized parent permission form for the current year.  
**(Athletic Participation Form)**
3. **Consent and Release of Liability Certificate EL3**
4. **PCS Athletic Information for Students and Parents Form**
4. **Transportation Release Form**
5. The County required participation fee of \$70.00 (non refundable) for the first sport, due within 3 days of making a team. A fee of \$40.00 is required for each additional sport played (maximum for family \$180.00). **\*\*Subject to change\*\***
6. **Affidavit of Compliance with Policy on Athletic Recruiting.** This form is to be used by any student who has transferred to WCHS.
7. An original birth certificate must be presented to the coach for verification. (This need only be presented to the coach one time while student remains at WCHS).
8. A student living out of the Wesley Chapel High School attendance zone must also have:  
A) Completed and approved Pasco County Special Attendance Request form on file in the registrar's office. .
9. Student athlete must complete 3 courses on NFHSlearn.com. (Sudden Cardiac Arrest, Heat Illness Prevention, Concussion in Sports)- directions are included in the athletic packet.

### **Non traditional students**

1. **Home Education**-all forms must be completed and filed prior to the first day of practice. Please refer to **Article 11.1.3 and 11.1.4 of the FHSAA Bylaws and Policy 14 (C)** in the Administrative Guidelines, Policies and Procedures section in the FHSAA Handbook. The Home Education program must be registered with the county.
2. **Foreign Exchange Student**-all forms must be completed and filed prior to the first day of practice. The amount of paperwork that is required for a foreign exchange student is extensive and will require additional time to complete.  
**\*\*\*FHSAA Paperwork Requirements are subject to change\*\*\***

## **ELIGIBILITY AND INELIGIBILITY**

A period of seven (7) calendar days beyond the last day of the marking period is provided to determine academic eligibility during the current school year.

1. 9th Graders must be regularly promoted.
2. All athletes after 1st semester as 9th grader must maintain 2.0 for semester eligibility.

3. The Athletic Director will conduct a 9-week grade check. Athletes must have 9 GPA points (1.5) and no more than 2 F's. Any Athlete with fewer than 9 quality points or having 3Fs will become ineligible until the next grade report (progress reports).
4. **Any athlete not meeting FHSAA 2.0 CUM is also ineligible for practice. The athlete may after progress report meet with athletic director and show that grades are much improved and should result in eligibility for next semester. Must also take report sheet around to all teachers with a satisfactory report. The Athletic Director will make decision.**
5. If student/athlete obtains 10 unexcused absences in a semester in any period, they will not be eligible for the remainder of the semester and the next 9-week period. (Subject to change). Attendance is checked monthly. Any student ruled ineligible during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter will be ineligible for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the following school year. It is imperative that school procedure is followed for excusing absences. If a student misses 4 or more periods of school on the day of a game, match, or meet the student is ineligible to participate on that day.

### **SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL**

Pasco County School board policy dictates that any student assigned Out-of-School suspension may not practice or participate in an athletic contest while suspended. This suspension will also apply during any appeal process. Suspensions involving multiple days will be dealt with on an individual basis and may result in game suspensions or dismissal. Furthermore, if an athlete receives In-School Suspension (ISS) they will be ineligible for the following contest.

### **COMMITMENT**

An athlete must understand that playing a sport is very demanding on his or her time for practice and games. Many of these occur during holidays, on Saturday, etc. The coach and team expect you to be there. An Athlete missing any contest during holidays for club/travel type teams will be considered unexcused and subject to the coaches policy regarding unexcused absences. Any other absences must be pre-arranged and approved by the Head Coach. **Any athlete, who quits a team or is dismissed for disciplinary reasons, will be ineligible for another sport until the current season is over.**

### **STEALING**

Stealing by any of our athletes will not be tolerated and will be grounds for **immediate dismissal from team** and may affect future athletic participation.

### **CLASS ATTENDANCE**

Students can never make up for class instruction missed when absent from classes. Thus, it is imperative that students be in school whenever physically able. Our policy is that athletes must be in attendance for 4 periods on the day of an athletic contest. The Head Coach or an Assistant prior to practice will check attendance on myStudent each day. If you see a pattern of tardiness, please address this with your athletes. The WCHS Athletic Department policy states that you must be in class unless there is a prearranged absence approved by the school

administration. If an athlete breaks the policy and it is not discovered until a later date, the athlete will be suspended from the next contest. Coaches may dictate in their policies any additional standards that they feel are necessary. Any emergency situations will be handled on an individual basis by contacting the Athletic Director at [kshoaff@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:kshoaff@pasco.k12.fl.us).

### **SPORTSMANSHIP**

Sportsmanship is required to be shown by all WCHS student athletes. Per FHSAA, the first suspension of a player is a warning to the school and if a second suspension follows a fine will be levied to the school that can range from \$250 - \$400. This fee will be initially taken from the two sports that received the suspensions and then will be split between the two players involved in the suspension. Fines must be paid prior to participation in further contests or other sports. Sportsmanship also includes posting on Social Media. The FHSAA is finding that many problems are arising from athletes taunting on Internet sites such as YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook and will not be tolerated by student athletes of WCHS.

### **UNIFORMS AND OTHER ISSUED EQUIPMENT**

Students are responsible for the proper care of all equipment issued to them. It is their responsibility to properly care for these items and return them at the end of the season in proper condition. Any of these items not returned must be paid for at the current replacement price (It is standard manufacturer's policy that, when replacing fewer than six uniforms, the cost of each equates to roughly 200% of original cost) before they may participate in another sport. Any awards, letters or honors will also be withheld until the student has cleared all debts or uniform responsibilities.

**WHEN WASHING UNIFORMS, AT NO TIME SHOULD BLEACH BE USED! Dry on Low Heat!**

**FHSAA Policy states that school uniforms can't be worn by clubs or off-season leagues**

### **NCAA REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOLARSHIP ATHLETES**

The NCAA has requirements for Athletic Scholarships and should be of interest to all parents. It is suggested that you familiarize yourself with these requirements and keep them in mind throughout your high school days, especially when scheduling classes from year to year. The guidance department has a complete copy of these and is more than pleased to help the students with any questions regarding this matter. All NCAA member schools strictly adhere to these requirements.

### **AWARD CEREMONY- CATSPY'S**

The Athletic Department will host this exciting sports awards ceremony. All athletes from all of the sports will come together on this night to be recognized for their success and achievements

they experienced during their season. It will take place in May. Please get with your coach for the exact date and time.

## **DRUG-FREE ENVIRONMENT FOR STUDENTS**

The manufacture, distribution, dispensation possession or use of controlled substances; including alcohol, is prohibited on District School Board property or at any sanctioned activity. This offense is a Level III violation of the Student Code of Conduct and may result in the expulsion of the student from Wesley Chapel High School.

The WCHS Athletic Department policy re: controlled substances is:

First offense - 18 week suspension and mandatory completion of counseling program \*18 week suspension is only counted through the regular school year; summer does not count as part of the 18 weeks.

Second offense - Athlete is dismissed from the athletic program for one calendar year.

If a student is found to be in possession or to have used tobacco products on school board property - student will be subject to District School Board of Pasco County guidelines and will be suspended from a minimum of one athletic contest.

\*FHSAA POLICY ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS

## **USE OF PROFANITY**

The use of profanity, obscene gestures, or abusive language is a Level III (serious breach of conduct) offense of the Student Code of Conduct. At anytime a student shows disrespect toward school officials, contestants, spectators, game officials, teammates or their coaches, the student will be suspended for a minimum of one contest.

## **STUDENT ATHLETE OR STUDENT INVOLVED IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES BEING ARRESTED AND CHARGED**

If a student has been arrested on or off campus and charged with a misdemeanor other than a minor traffic violation as defined in F.S. 775.08 or a crime that would be a felony if that student was an adult, then that **student will receive a four week suspension from practice and competition the first day the school administration becomes aware of said violation(s). After the suspension expires, the coach and administration will make a decision as to whether that student remains eligible or extend the suspension up to four additional weeks based on supportable information obtained from the police or the state attorney's office. The suspension will be immediately lifted should the charges be dropped.** If the student is adjudicated guilty of a misdemeanor (F.S. 775.08), the student will be ineligible for a period of four weeks from the date of conviction. The four weeks must be part of the regular school year and will not include summer school. If the student enters a plea of "no contest" and adjudication is withheld, then the student will be ineligible for a period of four school weeks from the date the plea is entered into the court records.

If the student is found to be "not guilty", the student may resume eligibility from the date the charges are dropped or that the "not guilty" is entered into court records.

**If the student is adjudicated guilty of a crime that would be a felony if that student was an adult, then that student will be ineligible for a period of no less than eighteen school weeks from the date of conviction.** If the student enters a plea of "no contest" to the felony charge, the student will be ineligible for a period of no less than eighteen school weeks from the date the plea is entered into court records. If the student is found "not guilty" to the felony charge, the student may resume eligibility from the date the charges are dropped or a "not guilty" is entered into court records.

## **STUDENT ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH A MISDEMEANOR**

The WCHS Athletic Department policy regarding a student charged with a misdemeanor; student eligibility will be suspended pending adjudication.

If the student is found guilty of misdemeanor; student will be ineligible from a period of 4 weeks from the date of conviction.

If the student enters a plea of no-contest; student will be ineligible for a period of 2 weeks from the date the plea is entered into court records.

If the student is found not-guilty; student may resume eligibility from the date charges are dropped or that not-guilty is entered into court records.

If a student enters a diversion program, the student will become eligible upon successful completion of the program.

## **INSURANCE AND ACCIDENTAL INJURIES**

The Pasco County School Board will provide excess student athletic insurance coverage. The plan provides limited excess coverage for medical expenses that arise from the treatment of accidental injuries incurred while a student participates in interscholastic sports.

**THIS PLAN IS NOT A GUARANTEE OF PAYMENT FOR MEDICAL SERVICES. YOU MAY ENCOUNTER CERTAIN OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES WHEN YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER IS TREATED FOR ACCIDENTAL INJURIES.**

**\*\*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\*\***

**All accident reports should be completed at the time of the injury and a parent should be notified immediately.**

**ALL INJURIES MUST BE REPORTED TO THE COACH BEFORE LEAVING PRACTICES OR GAMES.** Do not wait until the following day to report your injury.

**BEFORE SEEING ANY DOCTORS FOR TREATMENT**, the student will need to see the Athletic Director for the necessary school insurance claim form(s).

**Parents your insurance is primary. If you have an HMO or a PPO insurance plan it is absolutely imperative that you follow the procedures as prescribed by your insurance plan should your son or daughter need medical treatment.** In general, this will mean that you will have to take your child to your primary physician for treatment. If this is not done, your insurance will not cover any of the costs incurred and the medical benefits otherwise payable under the Board provided excess student athletic insurance policy shall be reduced by 50%.

**For parents who do not have primary insurance**, we encourage the use of the preferred providers. These medical providers have shown an interest in charging for services in accordance with policy limits in an effort to minimize your out-of-pocket expenses. This Wesley Chapel High School Handbook does not cover all situations that may occur in our Athletic Program; however, we have tried to include as many as possible in writing so the athletes and parents understand our expectations. We will strive to do all we can to make sure our student/athletes represent this school and community with dignity and integrity. Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right. Any student/athlete who violates a team rule or commits a serious breach of the student code of conduct may be dismissed from the team immediately. The final decision rests with the Coach, Athletic Director, and Principal.

## Parent/Athlete/Coach- Communication Guide

### Our Philosophy

- Athletic achievement requires a commitment from all athletes, parents, coaches, and administrators. For us to be successful, effective communication must occur.
- The WCHS athletic director and administration believe strongly in being accessible to the parents and supportive of the coaching staff.
- We will continuously strive to improve communication with our students and parents. To be successful, everyone must understand the goals and direction of our programs.

### Parent Expectations

1. It is reasonable to expect your child's coach to inform you:
  - Times and locations of practice and contests
  - His or her coaching philosophy
  - Expectations he/she has for all athletes on the squad
  - Requirements of the team, i.e. fees, equipment, conditioning, lettering requirements, fundraising, etc...
  - Of any injury occurring at practice or a contest
  - Whenever any disciplinary action will result in your son/daughter being suspended from a practice or contest.
2. Typical concerns of parents that are appropriate to discuss with the coach:
  - Any mental or physical strain on your child that is affecting their behavior at home or in the classroom.
  - How you can contribute to your child's skill improvement
  - Health concerns regarding your child
  - Schedule conflicts
3. Items that are inappropriate to discuss with a coach
  - Team strategy, play calling, and playing time
  - Other student athletes

If you have a concern regarding a coach, please follow the procedure below.

1. Make an appointment with the coach. Never approach the coach after a game or practice unless the coach requests this.
2. At the meeting, please professionally discuss the situation.
3. Determine the next step in resolving the issue.

What if the meeting with the coach does not resolve the problem?

- Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation

This Wesley Chapel High School Handbook does not cover all situations that may occur in our Athletic Program; however, we have tried to include as many as possible in writing so the athletes and parents understand our expectations. We will strive to do all we can to make sure our student/athletes represent this school and community with dignity and integrity. Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right. Any student/athlete who violates a team rule or commits a serious breach of the student code of conduct may be dismissed from the team immediately. The final decision rests with the Coach, Athletic Director, and Principal.







**Assumption of the Risk and Waiver of Liability Relating to Coronavirus/COVID-19**

The novel coronavirus, known as COVID-19, is an extremely contagious virus, which can cause serious medical conditions, including death. COVID-19 has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization, and as a result, federal, state, and local governments along with federal and state health agencies recommend social distancing and have, in some circumstances, limited the congregation of people. COVID-19 is so contagious that even the most extraordinary measures has not halted its spread amongst our population.

The District School Board of Pasco County (DSBPC or District) has initiated reasonable, precautionary measures in an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19. However, given the extremely contagious nature of COVID-19, the DSBPC cannot guarantee that your child(ren) will not contract the virus while attending or engaging in school-related and/or extracurricular activities. In fact, the increased exposure of attending or engaging in such activities could increase your child(ren)'s risk of contracting COVID-19, despite the DSBPC's reasonable efforts to reduce the spread of the virus.

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**READ THIS FORM COMPLETELY AND CAREFULLY. YOU ARE AGREEING TO LET YOUR MINOR CHILD ATTEND OR ENGAGE IN AN ACTIVITY AT WHICH THEY MAY BE EXPOSED TO AND CONTRACT COVID-19. YOU ARE AGREEING THAT, EVEN IF THE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF PASCO COUNTY AND ITS EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS (HEREINAFTER, DSBPC) USE REASONABLE CARE IN PROVIDING THIS ACTIVITY, THERE IS A CHANCE YOUR CHILD MAY CONTRACT COVID-19 AND MAY BE SERIOUSLY INJURED OR KILLED BY COVID-19 BECAUSE THERE ARE CERTAIN DANGERS INHERENT IN THE ACTIVITY AND THE VIRUS WHICH CANNOT BE AVOIDED OR ELIMINATED. BY SIGNING THIS FORM YOU ARE GIVING UP YOUR CHILD'S RIGHT AND YOUR RIGHT TO RECOVER FROM THE DSBPC IN A LAWSUIT FOR ANY PERSONAL INJURY, INCLUDING DEATH, TO YOUR CHILD OR ANY PROPERTY DAMAGE THAT RESULTS FROM THE RISKS THAT ARE A NATURAL PART OF THE ACTIVITY AND THE VIRUS, AND FOR RISKS ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OR RECKLESSNESS OF THE RELEASED PARTIES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE DSBPC. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE TO SIGN THIS FORM, AND THE DSBPC HAS THE RIGHT TO REFUSE TO**

# Parent/Student Athletic Code of Ethics Agreement

As a member of the Wesley Chapel High School Athletic Program, I understand that it is my responsibility to abide by all state, district and school regulations that govern interscholastic athletic activities.

The Wesley Chapel High School Athletic Department shall practice and promote the highest standards of sportsmanship and ethics in all interscholastic activities. The Principal and/or Athletic Director shall have full authority to suspend eligibility of any student for violation of state or school policies. Any spectator that demonstrates unsportsmanlike conduct may be removed from that contest and may lose the privilege of attending future activities at Wesley Chapel High School.

I know that athletic participation is a privilege and I agree to follow the rules of my school, district and the FHSAA and to abide by their decisions.

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Student:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Parent:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WCHS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT  
Matt McDermott, Principal  
Kelly Garrett, Athletic Director**

**Dear Parent/Guardian:**

**Wesley Chapel High School requires that all athletes have this form signed by a parent/guardian. This form is mandatory in order to participate in the WCHS athletic program.**

**This is to confirm that \_\_\_\_\_ has received information concerning WCHS policy, procedures and insurance.**

**We understand that the school insurance plan is a secondary coverage and that all accidental athletic injuries must go through our primary carrier first.**

**All involved with WCHS athletic program fully understand that the student/athlete will be expected to follow WCHS guidelines and display the utmost respect for teachers, coaches, administration, officials and opponents. Athletes that violate these standards will lose the privilege of representing WCHS athletic program.**

**Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_**

**Athletes Signature \_\_\_\_\_**

**Please list the sport(s) that the athlete participate:**

_____	_____
_____	_____