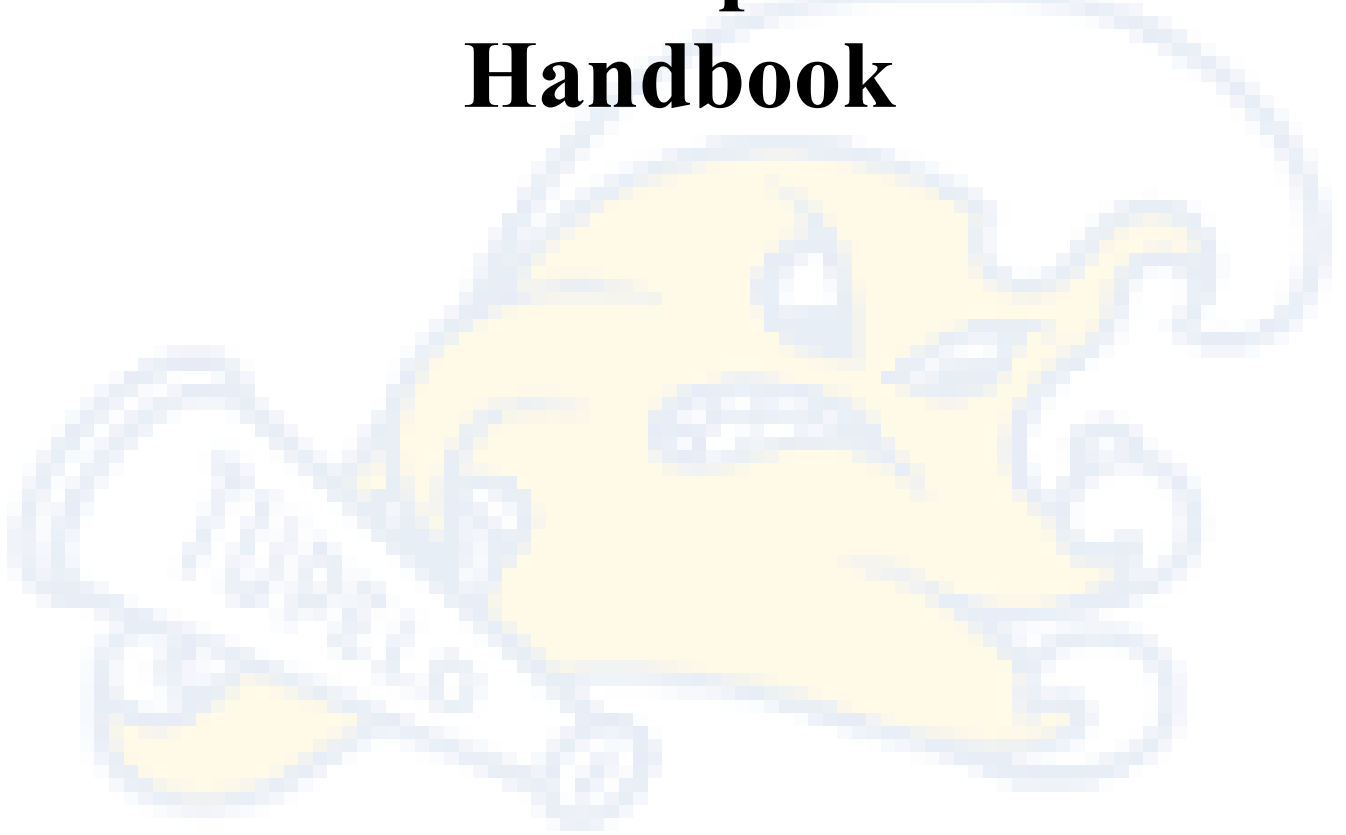


# **Tupelo Public School District Athletic Department Handbook**



**Superintendent: Dr. Rob Picou**

**THS Principal: Dr. Melissa Thomas**

**TMS Principal: Mark Enis**

**THS Athletic Director: Jason Miller**

**TMS Activities Director: Russ Harrell**

**Tupelo Athletic Department**

**Handbook 2023-2024**

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This handbook was prepared under the direction of Kelly Dowling Stimpson, Esq., Administrative Counsel for the Tupelo Public School District for use by District personnel. Copying or reproducing this handbook or any part thereof for use outside the District without express prior consent is prohibited.

# **TUPELO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT HANDBOOK**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This Activities Handbook is developed to provide coaches and athletes with a comprehensive guide of the requirements and procedures for participating in activities in the Tupelo Public School District (TPSD). In addition to the requirements contained herein, the activities program is governed by and complies with all TPSD policies as well as the rules and regulations established by the Mississippi High School Activities Association (“MHSAA”).

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission and goal of the TPSD activities program is to provide opportunities for students to participate in a variety of competitive sports and to develop good sportsmanship and other attributes of a well-rounded student.

TPSD deems it necessary to have a comprehensive and well-organized activities program to benefit all those who wish to participate. The major objective of the activities program is to provide a wholesome environment in which participating in extracurricular activities will help a student to develop positive attitudes toward himself/herself, teammates, coaches and competition. Through the TPSD athletics program, each student will be afforded the opportunity to participate in any sport if he/she meets the requirements that the sport demands.

Interscholastic, club or intramural athletics will be conducted in a manner that will not discriminate against a student on the basis of gender.

## **CODE OF ETHICS**

All TPSD athletes and coaches will abide by that which is moral, right, fair and honorable. Coaches must recognize that they are role models for their athletes and must conduct themselves in a manner which will maintain the dignity and decency expected of the profession. TPSD strives to build character in its student athletes and encourages good sportsmanship and fair play at all times. At no time will misconduct, unfair play, cheating or any form of unsportsmanlike conduct be tolerated.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP AND THE IMPORTANCE OF ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION**

The process of successfully educating today’s young people is a task that involves the whole school system and all of its resources, and interscholastic athletics in the Tupelo Public Schools definitely plays an integral role in the total education of student athletes. The Tupelo Public Schools have long recognized the fact that a strong commitment to excellence in academics as well as in athletics can, and should, be a top priority as we strive to meet the needs of our student body and to better prepare them for life’s challenges.

Although the values and benefits of athletic participation are almost too numerous to list, there are many reasons why athletics are so important and essential to the development of today’s youth. First, it should be noted that the leading cause of job failure is the inability of people to “get along” with each other in the work place. In the formative years of one’s growth, athletic participation teaches and promotes the building of relationships that a student may not necessarily gain in the classroom. Teammates take care of each other, and being a part of an athletic team often teaches acceptance of those different from ourselves. In addition, athletics demand that one

learn to follow directions and to exercise critical thinking skills. The value of teamwork is imperative to success in athletics, and young athletes quickly recognize the necessity of being able to work and to cooperate with members of a group. Other character traits such as discipline, leadership, responsibility, accountability, tolerance, forgiveness, and a strong work ethic are natural products of athletic participation.

Some people have argued that too much emphasis and too much time spent on the athletic field or court is counterproductive to academic achievement. However, athletes must learn good time management skills, and furthermore, they must be able to discipline themselves to simultaneously meet the demands of the classroom as well as their other responsibilities. The desire to do a job well and the satisfaction of knowing that an athlete has done his or her best nurtures productive and ambitious attitudes among young people. Perhaps Vince Lombardi said it best when he took exception with the thought that “winning isn’t everything; it’s the only thing.” Instead, Coach Lombardi said that “winning isn’t everything, but wanting to win and to do one’s best is.”

Aside from the many, many benefits that athletics provide for the participants, they also have enormous impact in many other ways as well. Athletics build community and school spirit, and they also provide good, wholesome family entertainment. The desire of a young person to play athletics is often a strong motivation for one to “not drop out” but rather to stay in school and to earn a diploma upon graduation. In addition, the Tupelo Public Schools are committed to drug-free athletic participation. The certainty of random drug screenings gives athletes another reason to “say no to drugs,” and to save many young people from a life of drug use, failure, and despair.

The Tupelo Public Schools are proud of a long history of success and achievement in athletics. In fact, Tupelo High School has recently been recognized twice by *Sports Illustrated* for the excellence of its athletic program, and the Golden Wave athletic program has won the *Clarion Ledger’s* “All Sports Award” nineteen times since 1987.

Just as important is the fact that the Tupelo Public Schools recognize that there are going to be setbacks and failures in athletics as well as in life. However, athletes quickly learn that when one is faced with sometimes seemingly overwhelming adversity, one must regroup, bounce back, and continue to go on and do his or her best. This may very well be the greatest benefit of athletics.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**

TPSD School Board  
Superintendent  
Assistant Superintendent  
Principal  
Athletic Director  
Head Coaches  
Assistant Coaches

## **COACHING ASSIGNMENTS**

It is the duty and responsibility of the athletic director and the principal to assign coaches to the various sports offered by TPSD.

## **SPORTS OFFERED**

Currently, TPSD offers competitive teams at Tupelo High School in the following sports:

Archery, Band, Baseball, Baseball (9th grade), Boy's Basketball, Boy's Bowling, Boy's Golf, Boy's Powerlifting, Boy's Soccer, Boy's Swimming, Boy's Tennis, Boy's Track, Boy's Cross Country, Mixed Cheer, Football, Football (9th Grade), Girl's Basketball, Girl's Bowling, Girl's Golf, Girl's Powerlifting, Girl's Soccer, Girl's Tennis, Girl's Track, Girl's Cross Country, Madrigals, Orchestra, Show Choir, Softball (Fast Pitch), Structure, Theater, Volleyball, and Wrestling

Currently, TPSD offers competitive teams at Tupelo Middle School in the following sports: Baseball Football Volleyball

Basketball (B/G) Softball (fast pitch) Soccer

Intramural sports are offered at both Tupelo High School and Tupelo Middle School in sports determined by the interests of the current student body.

## **EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COACHES**

All TPSD coaches are expected to present themselves as public officials whether on or off duty. Since coaches are in an extremely high profile profession, they should conduct themselves in an appropriate manner that will reflect positively on the school district. Failure to do this may result in discipline up to and including termination from employment. Any fine incurred by a coach for violating a misconduct rule of the MHSAA will be the personal responsibility of that coach.

All coaches are responsible for ensuring that programs under their supervision and/or with which they are associated as members of the athletic department are in compliance with the TPSD, MHSAA and State Board of Education policies.

## **EVALUATION PROCEDURES FOR COACHES**

The athletic director will evaluate all head coaches at the end of the season or school year. The principal will evaluate the athletic director. Should the athletic director also hold a position as a coach, the principal will separately evaluate each position of the athletic director/coach. The assistant coaches will be evaluated by the head coach of that sport and by the athletic director. The middle school athletic director will evaluate the junior high coaches and intramural coaches.

## **INTERSCHOLASTIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

**INTRODUCTION:** It is the responsibility of the athletic director and the head coach of each sport to see that the participants meet the requirements of the MHSAA. Failure to abide by MHSAA rules may result in a coach being sanctioned, fined and possibly terminated from his/ her position.

**ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE POLICY:** The athletic department will not tolerate the abuse of alcohol, drugs or tobacco by coaches or student athletes.

**ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT:** TPSD strives to provide high quality athletic equipment. The athletic director and head coach of each sport shall keep abreast of the latest trends in athletic equipment. Safety is the number one priority when selecting and purchasing athletic equipment. When purchasing athletic equipment, the coach and athletic director must follow the guidelines of the purchasing department. If a coach checks out any athletic equipment, he/she must see that it is returned promptly. A fine will be assessed to any student for the misuse or loss of athletic equipment; which fine must be paid before grading period exams may be taken. In addition, at the end of the season, each head coach must provide an inventory to the athletic director.

**ATHLETIC INSURANCE:** All athletes who participate in a competitive sport in the school district must be covered by an insurance policy. Insurance is required on all athletes prior to practicing or competing in interscholastic sports. An athlete should be covered by the comprehensive MHSAA plan or school day insurance policy for minor sports or have a reliable individual/family policy. Parents must sign an insurance form giving the company's name and insurance number.

**AWARDS:** The booster club and support groups are responsible for athletic awards. If there is no booster club, then it is at the discretion of the athletic director to establish the award program. At the end of the season, the booster club of a sport may choose to have a banquet with the approval of the head coach at which awards may be presented.

**BOOSTER CLUBS:** Booster clubs are essential components of successful athletic teams and provide necessary financial support to athletes. However, booster clubs should limit their roles to lending financial support and not to help coach, schedule or administer the team. Any money raised by a booster club is solely for the benefit of the team. The booster club shall have a constitution with bylaws and procedures established. The monies that are raised by the support groups shall be spent at the direction of the athletic director and the head coach of that sport. An annual audit by the support group and business department must be made and recorded. For the full policy, please see link: [TPSD Booster Club Policy](#)

**COACHING CLINICS FOR HIGH SCHOOL COACHES:** TPSD coaching staff shall stay abreast of the latest techniques and mechanics being used to teach their respective sports. TPSD will reimburse each coach for the cost of attending one coaching clinic per year with the approval of the athletic director. Each coach may request approval to attend the clinic that he/she would like to attend, with preference being given to local clinics (The University of Mississippi or Mississippi State University).

**COACHING CLINICS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL COACHES:** Coaches of middle school teams will be reimbursed for expenses incurred in attending one local clinic (University of Mississippi or Mississippi State

University) with no overnight stay. Reimbursement for attendance at clinics is not offered to coaches of intramural sports. It is expected that the coaches attending clinics will share the information with their colleagues after returning.

**DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES:** All athletes are expected to deport themselves as responsible young men and women. This applies to the classroom as well as the athletic fields and social events. If an athlete shows a lack of self-discipline, has a poor attitude, or is not fulfilling his/ her commitments to the athletic program, he/she may be suspended from that sport. If any athlete boycotts the team or coach for any reason, that athlete shall be suspended from participation in that sport and any other sport for the remainder of the school year. An athlete must comply with all written and oral directions given by the coach(es) of that sport. All teams and activities will have a handbook that lists expectations of the team that will be distributed to the participants.

1. Disciplinary action for minor offenses such as inappropriate classroom behavior reported by a teacher, tardiness to class, missed practices and/or meetings without proper excuse, disrespect, inappropriate dress, etc... Disciplinary action at the coach's discretion including but not limited to verbal correcting, sitting out of a game, and conference with parents.

2. Disciplinary action for major offenses such as defacing or destroying school property, fighting, stealing, committing forgery, defying a coach or school authority, causing a disruption in school or on a school bus, leaving school grounds without permission, abusive language, threatening another student, using alcohol, tobacco, vape devices, vape cartridges, and/or drugs, exhibiting a poor attitude, lack of self-discipline, boycotting the team for any reason, etc.:

Disciplinary action consists of a parental conference, sitting out a game or games, suspension from the program for a specific period of time, permanent dismissal from the program, and/or any other action deemed appropriate by the coaches and athletic director. If a player is permanently dismissed from the program, the coach will notify the player's parent or guardian of such dismissal.

These responses shall be cumulative to applicable disciplinary measures set forth within the student handbook. An athlete who commits a major offense may also be subject to suspension and expulsion.

**EJECTION OF ATHLETES/COACHES AND/OR PENALTIES:** TPSD follows all MHSAA rules relative to the ejection of an athlete or coach. If an athlete or coach is penalized, he/she must comply with the penalty. TPSD requires all coaches to conduct themselves in such a manner that neither a fine, penalty nor ejection from a game will be warranted. However, should a financial penalty be imposed on a coach, it is his/her personal responsibility to pay the penalty. TPSD will not be responsible for payment of a coach's fine.

**ELIGIBILITY:** All coaches must be knowledgeable of and comply with the MHSAA rules governing eligibility of student athletes, which require that a contestant must:

Not have become 19 years of age prior to August 1 (\$1000 fine to the school for this infraction)

Not be a graduate from a four year high school;

Not have enrolled in college or junior college or participated in athletics beyond the high school level;

Be a student whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) are (1) bona fide residents of the district or (2) are instructional personnel or licensed employees of the district

Have a certified copy of his/her birth certificate on file with the school

See MHSAA handbook for recognized exceptions.

Any student who is not a bona fide resident of the district or who is not living with his/her natural parents



within the district must obtain approval from the athletic director prior to competing. To try out for any activity that TPSD offers the student must be enrolled in the district.

## **ELIGIBILITY: SCHOLASTIC REQUIREMENTS**

**The MHSAA requires students participating in MHSAA sanctioned competitions to make “satisfactory progress toward graduation”. Each school district shall determine the requirements for “satisfactory progress toward graduation” through its graduation requirements and shall interpret this rule according to its requirements.**

According to Mississippi law, a student must maintain a grade point average of at least a 2.0 or “C” average in order to participate in interscholastic sports/activities. Grade point averages will be calculated at the conclusion of the first semester using the semester averages of **all** courses the student is taking. Students who do not have a 2.0 or “C” average for the first semester will be ineligible for the second semester.

At the end of the school year, each student’s grade point average for the year will be assessed. This assessment will reflect the average for the entire year using the final grades for each course. A student who does not have a grade point average of at least a 2.0 or “C” average, will be ineligible for the fall semester.

High school eligibility begins when a student enters ninth grade. To be eligible for the fall semester, a student must be promoted to ninth grade with at least an overall 2.0 or “C” average of **all** eighth grade courses.

A student may become eligible for the second semester only once during his/her high school career if he/she fails the year-end average the previous year, by achieving at least an overall 1. or “C” average at the end of the first semester.

A 2.0 or “C” average may be calculated in two ways:

Grade point average: A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0

Numerical average: Place all semester or year-end averages in the local grading scale. If the overall average is a “C” or better, the student is eligible.

## **ELIGIBILITY: JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOLASTIC REQUIREMENT**

For participation on the junior high/middle school level, a student must be promoted (**if not promoted, they are ineligible for the entire year**) and have passed any four basic courses (any subject that meets the equivalent of at least 250 minutes per week or meets the State Department requirement) with a 2.0 or “C” average the previous semester (computed numerically or by GPA).

The year-end average of four basic courses passed will be used to determine eligibility for the fall semester. The same guidelines apply at the end of the first semester for spring participation. Students must be on track to be promoted to be eligible.

A student on the junior high/middle school level, who was promoted but is not eligible at the beginning of the school year due to his academic average, may become eligible for the second semester only once during the student’s junior high/middle school career by passing four basic courses with an overall average of 2.0 at the end of the first semester.

## **ELIGIBILITY: SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE PARTICIPATION ON THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL**

In order to participate in the fall, a student must be promoted (**if not promoted, they are ineligible for the entire year**) having passed the four core courses (English, math, science and social studies), and the average of those four core courses must be a "C" or above. For spring semester eligibility, the student does not have to be passing all four core courses, but the average of those four core courses must be a "C" or above

Students who are allowed to participate on a high school team in any sport/activity shall not be allowed to participate on a junior high school team in the same sport/activity at the same time or at a later date. Students who are playing up (seventh to eighth) are not allowed to participate on the seventh grade team in the same sport/activity at the same time or at a later date.

Ninth grade participation shall be considered as Junior Varsity participation keeping in mind the number of quarters or innings participating during a school week.

## **ELIGIBILITY: SPECIAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**

Special education students making satisfactory progress according to the committees reviewing their Individual Education Plans (IEP) shall be academically eligible. Special education students must maintain attendance according to district policy, be assigned a date entering ninth grade corresponding to other students of that age, and be subject to all other rules and regulation of the MHSAA.

## **ELIGIBILITY: FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT REQUIREMENTS**

A foreign exchange student participating in an established program accepted by the Council of Standards for International Education Travel (CSIET) shall be immediately eligible to participate in MHSAA sanctioned sports/activities in the school district in which the host family is a bona fide resident. Eligibility is granted for one year provided there is no evidence of recruitment of the student by the school or another entity.

**GAME AND PRACTICE SUPERVISION:** All head coaches must ensure that proper security and fan supervision is in place prior to an athletic contest/event. Further, no game or practice may be held without a coach present.

**MULTIPLE SPORTS PARTICIPATION:** TPSD acknowledges that there are sports whose seasons overlap and some athletes may have conflicts in scheduling. In the case of an athlete who wishes to participate in multiple sports and scheduling conflicts arise, it is hoped that the two coaches can arrive at a solution. If no agreement can be reached, then a play-off game would take first priority followed by a district game and a non-district game last. Athletes are encouraged to participate in as many sports as they wish and should be able to do so without pressure from any coach to limit participation to one sport. TPSD may seek dismissal of any coach who discourages an athlete from participating in more than one sport.

A student/athlete that quits one sport to participate in a second sport will not be allowed to play in the second sport until the season of the sport that he/she quit is over. (Example: John Doe quits basketball late in the season to play baseball. John Doe will not be able to play baseball until basketball season is over.)

**OUTSIDE TEAM PLAY:** The sport or activity in season with the TPSD always takes preference over any outside team play or practice. TPSD is very concerned about injuries among the athletes since many are over exposed to

practice beyond the high school practice during the high school season. It will be TPSD policy that any athlete that chooses to miss practice or games to participate in outside team play will be subject to dismissal from the program.

Soccer: The coach will attempt to schedule around showcase events that occur during the high school season to give the players the opportunity to showcase their talents in outside play. Any missed practices or games are subject to the following punishments:

1st missed practice (any part of practice): one game suspension (next game)

1st missed game: two game suspension (next two games) and loss of lettering privilege in that sport for that year

2nd missed practice (any part of practice): two game suspension (next two games) and loss of lettering privilege in that sport for that year

2nd missed game: dismissal from program

**PHYSICAL EXAMINATION/WAIVER:** All athletes are required to complete a parental permission form, an insurance form and a physical examination form prior to participating in a practice or game. The physical examination must be conducted by a licensed physician or a nurse practitioner under the guidance of a licensed physician. All students who wish to try out for an athletic team must have a physical examination form or a physical exam waiver on file. Prior to participating in any practice or contest, all athletes must have a completed Dragonfly account. Dragonfly is our online eligibility system and an account can be created at [DragonFly](#).

**RELIGIOUS NEUTRALITY:** TPSD recognizes the right of every person to make personal decisions about religion free from school or governmental involvement. TPSD encourages all students and staff to appreciate, respect and be tolerant of each other's religious decisions and views. Coaches and/or district employees may not lead, plan, encourage, discourage or prohibit prayers or religious activities at school and/or school events.

**SAFETY PROCEDURES FOR ATHLETES:** The safety of athletes in practice and games is a top priority in TPSD. The athletic director and the supervising coaches must take all necessary precautions to insure the safety of the athletes.

**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ON GAME DAY:** In order to be eligible to participate in a competition on a school day, an athlete must attend school at least sixty percent (60%) of the school day on the day of the competition. A school-related/administrative absence is not subject to this 60% rule. Final judgements will be rendered by the athletic director.

**SIGNING DAY PROCEDURES:** It is the hope that TPSD will have numerous signings per year. While the player and coach are welcome to host these where convenient, they can be hosted on our campus. Please make sure to let the athletic director know the date and time of such signing. The head coach will also be responsible for contacting the appropriate people to make sure the media and school officials are in the know. For any questions about these procedures please see the athletic director.

**SIGNING DAY ATTIRE and DRESS CODE:** It is the expectation of TPSD that signees will dress appropriately for the occasion. No head dressings or hats will be allowed unless they are that of the team they are signing. All attendees will be in compliance with the TPSD dress code policy. If there are any questions about what is appropriate please see the athletic director or principal.

**TRAVEL:** The athletic director and head coach are responsible for transporting the athletes to games/contests in an approved state vehicle. Alternative travel may be arranged only in accordance with TPSD Board policy (EDAE).

Rules for travel to State Championship games/contests:

1. If the athletic contest begins prior to 12:00 noon, TPSD approves and will pay the costs associated with travel to the game location on the day preceding the date of the contest.
2. If the athletic contest begins at 12:00 noon or later, the team will travel and return on the same day.
3. If the playoffs are scheduled for consecutive days, TPSD will pay for the cost of spending the night between the two dates, subject to 1 and 2 above.

Reimbursement for travel to games/contests that are not part of state championships will be at the discretion of the athletic director.

**WEIGHT ROOM:** A well-organized weight program is essential to a competitive athletic program. TPSD encourages all staff involved with the weight program to attend clinics in order to stay current with the latest weight training techniques. The weight room should be a safe and wholesome environment. Athletes are prohibited from working out in the weight room without the supervision of weight room staff.

### **Athletic Trainer**

The athletic trainer is an employee provided by the North Mississippi Medical Center to assist with the proper medical care of all athletes, including those who are injured and/or recuperating. His/her job responsibilities include attending practices and game preparation, monitoring athletes during contests, consulting with doctors and head coaches regarding injuries, recommending removal from practice and/or games, being available to all coaches for help and consultation, contacting doctors and ambulance service for athletic events as necessary. Maintains professional conduct and acts responsibly during all TPSD sponsored events.

**DRUG TESTING POLICY – STUDENT ATHLETES, DRIVERS, EXTRACURRICULAR PARTICIPANTS (TPSD Policy JCDAB)**

### **I. BOARD POLICY**

The Tupelo Public School District (“TPSD”) recognizes that drug and alcohol use by students participating in athletics, extracurricular activities and those who drive and park on campus (hereinafter “participating students”) present special concerns about the dangerous combination of drugs or alcohol and participation in these activities. While the misuse or abuse of alcohol, illegal drugs, prescription and even non-prescription drugs is unsafe for any student, the additional demands placed upon participating students make such misuse or abuse dangerous. For the full policy, please see link: [TPSD Drug Testing Policy](#)

**STUDENT TRANSPORTATION IN PRIVATE VEHICLES (TPSD Policy EDAE):** The primary concerns of the Tupelo Public School District for students who are being transported to school events and school-related activities are safety and security. Whenever possible, student transportation to school events and school related events will be in school buses or other school district vehicles that have been approved for student transportation. Drivers of school owned vehicles are directed to use and ensure the use of all safety equipment, such as seat belts, and to observe all safety rules and traffic laws. In individual cases where a student will need to travel to a school event or school-related activity in the private vehicle of another person, either one time or on a recurring basis, a copy of this policy should be provided to the student’s parents or guardian and at least one parent or the guardian should read and sign a release form. For the full policy, please see link: [TPSD Student Transportation Policy](#)

**TRAVEL RELEASE**

For a copy of the travel release form, please click the link: [TPSD Travel Release](#)

**EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

In case of an emergency all efforts will be made to contact the parent(s). However, if the parents cannot be reached, please list the following:

Person(s) to contact in case of an emergency: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Athlete: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Policy: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_

Group #: \_\_\_\_\_

List any known allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

List current medications: \_\_\_\_\_

List past or existing medical conditions that we should be aware of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**PARENTAL PERMISSION FOR EMERGENCY TREATMENT**

I hereby authorize and give permission for emergency medical treatment to be rendered for and on behalf of my child, for any injury received while participating in any supervised school related sports activity. This authorization includes, but is not limited to, any treatment deemed necessary by certified personnel, physicians, hospital emergency room physicians, dentists, and hospitals.

Printed name of parent or legal guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent or legal guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DRUG TESTING**

I, the parent or legal guardian, acknowledge that I have received the Tupelo Public School District Drug and Steroid Use in School Athletics Policy. I further acknowledge that this student will be subject to pre-season testing, random testing throughout the year and to testing for steroid use in the circumstances of reasonable suspicion.

Printed name of parent or legal guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent or legal guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**ATHLETIC AUTHORIZATION FORM**

I/we give our permission to participate in organized high school athletics, realizing that such activity involves the potential for injury which is inherent in all sports. I/we acknowledge that even with the best coaching, use of the most advanced protective equipment, and strict observance of the rules, injuries can be so severe as to result in total disability, paralysis, or even death.

I/we acknowledge that I/we have read and understand this warning.

Printed name of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Player's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Player's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**CERTIFICATION OF RECEIPT OF ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**

I, the parent or legal guardian, certify that I received the Tupelo Public School District Athletic Handbook.

Printed name of parent or legal guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent or legal guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_