

Handbook for Student-Athletes

Please carefully read through this 2023-2024 Athletic Handbook.

There are changes that will affect YOU.

Statement of Philosophy and Purpose of Handbook

Jasper County Schools is committed to providing a diversified, participatory, and successful athletic program that is available to all students. Our school believes that such a program is a vital and integral part of the total school environment as well as playing a key role in the overall development of each student who is involved in the athletic program. It is our belief that the athletic program should assist students in developing positive self-esteem and the qualities of good citizenship as well as promoting school spirit, fellowship and a pride in serving and positively representing the institution.

It is the purpose of this handbook to set forth the operating procedures for the students, parents and athletic staff. It is designed as a reference source that will facilitate the process of seeking and clarifying information concerning administrative and athletic policies and procedures as well as promote a framework that will lead to the effective and efficient application of those policies and procedures.

Objectives of Participation

The athletic program will provide each participating student adequate opportunities for:

- Physical, mental, and emotional growth and development
- The acquisition and development of special skills in the activities of each student's choice
- Directed leadership and supervision that stresses self-discipline, self-motivation, excellence and the ideals of good sportsmanship exemplified through winning and losing graciously
- Being a part of a unified team composed of the student body, faculty, and community
- The achievement of goals established by the individual student, the team and the school
- The development of skills and an appreciation of sports that may be used throughout life as a participant and/or spectator

The Goal for each Student-Athlete

The overall goal for the athletic program is for each student-athlete to become a better overall person through his or her participation in athletics. The major points of emphasis throughout the program will be teamwork, maximum effort, dedication, commitment, respect for authority and discipline.

Requirements for Athlete Participation

Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation - Students must have a certificate of an annual physical examination on file at the school prior to participating in any athletic tryouts, practices, voluntary workouts or games that indicate the student is physically approved for participation. The physical must be completed by a medical doctor and submitted to the athletic director prior to participation. The physical covers all sports for one calendar year. The form will be kept on file in the athletic office. Any physical examination taken on or after April 1 in the preceding year will be accepted for the entire next GHSA school year.

The required pre-participation physical evaluation form is the form, which was adopted by the GHSA.

It consists of an athlete's personal and family medical history and an athlete's physical examination completed by a medical physician. The physical must show that the student is cleared to participate. A full copy of all of the GHSA Eligibility requirements can be found here.

https://www.ghsa.net/sites/default/files/documents/forms/2023_GHSA_PPE_Fillable_-_Revised_3-9-23.pdf

Parental Consent for Athletic Participation and Transportation – All athletes and parent(s)/guardian(s) must realize the risk of serious injury which may be a result of athletic participation. Jasper County Schools requires that a Parental Consent for Athletic Participation and Transportation Form is signed by the athlete and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s). Parent(s)/Guardian(s) may not alter or change this form. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) acknowledge that they have read and understood the “Athlete/Parent/Guardian Handbook for Sanctioned Athletics Interscholastic Activities” when they sign this form.

Emergency Medical Authorization – Each student-athletes' parent(s)/guardian(s) shall complete an Emergency Medical Authorization Form giving permission for treatment by a physician or hospital when the parent(s)/guardian(s) are not available. The form will be kept by the school's athletic department for use as needed during the emergency. (See Appendix) **Each sport should have an emergency action plan for every sport and this plan should be accessible by the head coaches and assistants at all times.**

Student/Parent Concussion Form – Each student and parent/guardian shall complete the Concussion Awareness Form. Please list all sports that the student-athlete will compete in during the school year.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest Form- Each student and parent/guardian shall complete the Concussion Awareness Form. Please list all sports that the student-athlete will compete in during the school year.

Insurance – It is strongly recommended that Parent(s)/Guardian(s) have medical insurance for their student athlete. If a student athlete does not have insurance coverage, the school district provides an opportunity to purchase insurance to cover student athletic injuries. Where possible, a scholarship fund should be set up to assist students who are in financial need as determined by the principal or his/her designee. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) should contact the athletic director if they need financial assistance acquiring insurance.

GHSA Eligibility Requirements

In order to be eligible with the Georgia High School Association, student-athletes must meet certain basic academic requirements. All students must pass a minimum of 2.5 credits per semester to maintain eligibility. In other words, a student must pass 5 out of 7 classes that they are taking to be eligible. In addition to earning 2.5 credits per semester, a student-athlete must also be on-track academically. To maintain eligibility students must possess the following number of credits:

9th Grade: all entering 9th graders are eligible.

10th Grade: All second year students must have a minimum of 5 credits

11th Grade: All third year students must have a minimum of 11 credits

12th Grade: All fourth year students must have a minimum of 17 credits

Students have 8 consecutive semesters of eligibility beginning at the date of entry into the 9th grade. Eligibility can only be gained and lost on the last day of the semester. For example, if you are ineligible for the fall semester, you will not regain your eligibility until the first day of second semester. If you are ineligible in the spring, you will regain eligibility on the first day of fall semester or on the first practice date for a fall sport, whichever comes first. Credit Recovery courses taken during the course of a semester apply to the next eligibility period, not the current eligibility period.

Middle School Athletic Eligibility

- A. A student is eligible to participate one year in the 6th grade, one year in the 7th grade, and one year in the 8th grade. This applies to the first year a student enters that grade. Participation means as a player or manager.
- B. A player must not reach his/her 16th birthday prior to May 1st preceding the year of participation of his 8th grade year.
- C. A student may have no more than one failing grade for the semester that precedes the sport. Each subject must be passed with a minimum grade of 70.
- D. All student-athletes are required to have a physical on file at the school. The physical must show that the student is cleared to participate. Physicals are valid for a period of one year.

Introductions to the Parent/Guardian/Student-Athlete

Parent/Guardian/Student-Athlete Awareness of Athletic Policies and Procedures – All student-athletes/parent(s)/guardian(s) shall have access to this handbook through the Jasper County Schools website. A hard copy of this handbook will be made available at student-athlete/parent/guardian who requests a copy. Each parent(s)/guardian(s)/student athlete shall be expected to read all of the enclosed material and complete all required forms including but not limited to athletic participation, transportation, and physical examination. This handbook is designed as minimum standards for the Jasper County Schools Board of Education schools that are members of and participate in Georgia High School Association Interscholastic Athletic Association and Piedmont Athletic Association sanctioned athletic events.

To the Parent(s)/Guardian(s) – This material is presented to you because your son or daughter has indicated a desire to participate in athletic activities. The Jasper County School System believes that participation in interscholastic athletic activities provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences which will assist students in personal growth and development.

We believe that a properly controlled, well-organized interscholastic athletic activity program meets with students' needs for self-expression, mental alertness, and physical growth. It is our hope to maintain a program that is sound in purpose and that will further each student's educational maturity.

A student who elects to participate in the interscholastic athletic activity program is voluntarily making a choice of self-discipline and self-denial. These are the reasons we place such stress on good training habits. Failure to comply with the rules of training and conduct may mean exclusion from participation. This concept of self-discipline and self-denial is tempered by our responsibility to recognize the rights of the individual within the objectives of the team or activity. Staff will strive to:

1. To provide adequate equipment and facilities
2. To provide well-trained coaches

Likewise, we feel that you have committed yourselves to certain responsibilities and obligations. We would encourage you to join your school's Booster Club(s) to help provide the financial support essential to your school's interscholastic athletic activities program.

It is the role of the school system to make rules that govern the spirit of competition for the schools.

These rules need a broad basis of community support, which is achieved only through communication to the parent/guardian. It is our hope to accomplish this objective through this publication.

Why should it be any different now that your child is an athlete? A parent's job is not to be the coach or the certified expert even if you are retired from a professional sports team. Parents are there so that they can share "the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat" – together. In fact, each athlete needs parental support more in defeat than in victory. Did you ever notice that strangers feel free to come out of the stands and congratulate the winner? But, in defeat, sometimes the athlete's own teammates and coaches ignore him/her and the fans do not come out to console or congratulate him/her on a good game or match. As a parent/guardian you have to be there to cushion setbacks with a positive "We'll get them next time!" Let the three "B's" be your guide:

- **Be There!** Parents can never hope to be an All-Star parent unless they show up at games. Regardless of the skill level of the athletes or the success of the team – go to the games. Be supportive. Don't be a fickle, fair-weather fan or an absent, too busy parent.
- **Be Positive!** On the sidelines or in the stands, if parents can't say anything positive, don't say anything at all. Nothing good comes from negative statements and nothing negative comes from positive ones. If parents can't say something positive and supportive during the contest at least be silent.
- **Be Seated!** Even though it's good to be positive, it is not good to overdo it. Do not stick out. Be an admirer, not a cheerleader. Players should not confuse their parent's voice from the home stands with that of the public-address system's announcers.

Sportsmanship – The following statement has been adopted by GHSA and provides guidance for all parties.

"The GHSA and its member schools have made a commitment to promote good sportsmanship by student/athletes, coaches, and spectators at all GHSA sanctioned events. Profanity, degrading remarks, and intimidating actions directed at officials, competitors, or other spectators will not be tolerated, and are grounds for removal from the event site. Spectators are not allowed to enter the competition area prior to, during, or after the conclusion of the contest. Violators are subject to removal from the venue. Thank you for your cooperation in the promotion of good sportsmanship at today's event."

Schools have made a commitment to promote good sportsmanship by student/athletes, coaches, and spectators at all events. Profanity, degrading remarks, and intimidating actions directed at officials or competitors will not be tolerated, and are grounds for removal from the event site. Spectators are not allowed to enter the competition area during warm-ups or while the contest is being conducted. Thank you for your cooperation in the promotion of good sportsmanship at all of our schools' athletic events.

Grievances and Complaints – Athletics involvement is highly emotional and very time-consuming. Sometimes conflicts arise between athletes, coaches, and occasionally parents. When conflicts or issues arise, it is important that they are addressed immediately, and as directly as possible, so that it can be resolved promptly. Parents/Guardians should use the following process as a guideline when seeking resolution to conflicts or issues between athlete and coach:

The First Step: Contacting the Coach – The parent(s)/guardian(s) should present the conflict/issue to the coach as soon as possible. In order for the contact to be as productive as possible, times that should be avoided are: prior to, during or immediately following a contest; during an active practice session when other athletes or parents are present or when it would be readily visible to others that the discussion is taking place or when it is apparent that there is not sufficient time to allow for complete discussion. This includes the time immediately before leaving for an away contest. Perhaps the best solution is to ask the coach, either over the phone or in person, if an appointment could be made to discuss the issue. Parent(s)/guardian(s) may also leave a note for the coach in the athletic office.

The Second Step: Contacting the Athletic Director – If a satisfactory solution is not reached through direct contact with the coach, the parent(s)/guardian(s) should contact the school’s Athletic Director. The coach should be informed that this contact is going to be made. If this discussion does not result in a satisfactory conclusion, then a meeting will be scheduled involving all concerned parties in an attempt to reach a satisfactory resolution. Since athletic seasons are relatively short, there should be no delay in airing any and all concerns. It is important for all parent(s)/guardian(s) to know that any comments, concerns or issues raised to the Athletic Coordinator will be addressed and communicated to the coach. Parents(s)/Guardian(s) may also expect to hear from the Athletic Director as to the disposition of their concerns. Although there can be no guarantee that all parties will agree with all resolutions or findings, a thorough, respectful airing of different perceptions and experiences can lead to more productive relationships and clearer understandings in the future.

The Third Step: Contacting the Principal – If there is still not a satisfactory resolution, the parent(s)/guardian(s) may contact the school’s Principal. The school’s Athletic Director should be informed that this contact is going to be made. The grievances and complaints involved Title IX compliance, which is investigated according to the procedures outlined in Board Policy.

To the Student-Athlete – Being a member of the Jasper County Schools interscholastic athletic activity is the fulfillment of an early ambition for many students. The attainment of this goal carries with it certain traditions and responsibilities that must be maintained. A great competitive tradition is not built overnight; it takes hard work from many people over many years. As a member of an interscholastic activity team, you will be faced with either the task of maintaining an already successful tradition or the task of establishing a successful tradition. It is not easy to build a great tradition in interscholastic athletic activity competition. When you represent your school, we assume that you not only understand your school’s goals and traditions but also that you are willing to assume the responsibilities that go with them.

Interscholastic sports and athletic activities are exciting and often involve forceful contact with the ground, playing surface, or another player. Because of these conditions inherent to the sport of activity, participation in a school’s interscholastic athletic activity program exposes an athlete to many risks or injury. In an effort to make the sports and athletic activities as safe as they can, the coaching staff will instruct players in the rules and correct mechanics of skills. It is vital that athletes follow the coach’s skill instruction, training rules, and team rules to decrease the possibility of serious injury. The athletes should: (1) participate in proper warm-up and stretching before strenuous activity takes place either during practice or at a contest; (2) check his/her equipment before use for each practice and contest; (3) perform only those skills and techniques instructed and/or supervised by his/her coach; (4) be aware of his/her surrounding, taking no unnecessary risks on either home or away playing surfaces; (5) contact his/her coach immediately if an injury occurs, no matter how slight injury might be. Profanity, degrading remarks, and intimidating actions directed at officials or competitors will not be tolerated, and are grounds for removal from the event site.

Conditioning and tryouts for programs in and out of season are open to all JCCS students providing they meet the standards of academic eligibility, parental permission, basic physical/health qualifications, and medical/health insurance.

DEAD WEEKS: NO PRACTICES, WORK OUT SESSIONS, OR MEETINGS. During the **summer** (i.e., between the ending of one school year and the beginning of the next) the only restrictions on practices are that all activities must be strictly voluntary, and the **“Dead Week”** must be observed, as follows: Schools are prohibited from participating in voluntary workouts, camps and/or clinics, weight training or competitions during the week (Sunday through Saturday) in which the Fourth of July falls each year. While athletes may work out on their own, they cannot do so at their school or any other

school site under the supervision of a coach or at any non-school site under the supervision of a coach.

Summer Conditioning Rule: No student is allowed to participate in any activity with the school or team during the summer months unless they are an enrolled student in that school or a rising 9th grader from a feeder school. This includes summer conditioning and weight room sessions. Once the student is officially enrolled, the student can start participating in any and all activities. **The student must have a current physical packet on file with the school.**

Participation in athletics is a privilege; athletes try out voluntarily and, for some of our teams, risk being cut. During the tryout period, the coach will provide an explanation of his/her expectations. It is the athlete's responsibility to demonstrate to the coach that he/she can meet these expectations. **No athlete is guaranteed a place on a team simply because of his or her grade level or past participation.** Athletes cut from a team are encouraged to try out for another team if there is space on that team and the final cuts have not been made. The athlete cut from a team may request a meeting with the coach during which the athlete will be informed as to the reason for the cut. Decisions made by the coaches will be explained to athletes at an appropriate time and an appropriate setting, usually in an athlete-requested meeting with the coach.

Athlete Playing Time – There are many factors that determine athletes playing time, such as practice attendance, attitude, commitment, effort, and athletic ability. There are many decisions made on a regular basis by the coaching staff. It is the coach's responsibility to decide which athletes should start a contest, which athlete should play what position, and how long each athlete should play. These decisions, often difficult to make, are made only by the coaching staff and are approached very seriously after having observed the athlete in practice sessions, scrimmages and, at times, games.

Varsity Teams – The emphasis at the varsity level shifts towards fielding competitive teams. Our teams will compete against opponents at the highest level of execution and the goal is to win as many games as possible while constantly emphasizing fair play and sportsmanship. This emphasis may result in the major burden of the contest being carried by the most competitive, skilled team members and uneven playing time among the athletes, with some athletes not playing in every game. Once again, it is the coach who makes the decision on who starts, plays and for how long. However, teams cannot be successful without committed substitutes. These players should be ready at all times to step up and take on the burden of competition when called upon. It is the hard work in practice each day that prepares the whole team for upcoming games.

Athlete Codes of Conduct – A firm and fair policy of enforcement are necessary to uphold the regulations and standards of the county and school. The community, school administrators and the coaching staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program. The welfare of the athlete is our major consideration. Any conduct which results in dishonor to the athlete, the team, the school, or the community will not be tolerated. Notwithstanding the consequences discussed in this handbook, any act at school or away from school, which results in any discipline by school administration; or any act at school or away from school which, in the opinion of the Principal reflects in a negative manner on the school, athletic program, or activity may result in removal from the team or event or lessened participation opportunities. Behavioral expectations and prohibitions apply 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, in and out of the specific extracurricular season, and on or off school grounds. In addition to the Jasper County Code of Conduct.

Ethics Rule: Acts of unacceptable conduct, such as, but not limited to disruption of school, theft, vandalism, disrespect, immorality, or violations of the law tarnish the reputation of everyone associated with the program and will not be tolerated. Due to the serious nature of violation to the Ethics Rule, the appropriate coach, the athletic director, and the principal shall establish procedures to determine the penalty according to the degree of the infraction.

Bullying and Hazing: The Jasper County School District expressly prohibits the bullying of any person by any means or method, at school, on school property, or at school-related functions.

Training Rules/Regulations: The athlete who uses tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, or any type of mood altering substance found in legal over the counter products jeopardizes team morale, team reputation, and team success and does physical harm to himself/herself.

1. Use of Tobacco/vapes– Student-athletes who shall not use tobacco/vapes at any time, during the season and/or off- season
2. Use of Alcoholic Beverages – Student-athletes shall not consume alcoholic beverages at any time, during the season and/or off-season.
3. Use of Illegal Drugs or Mood-Altering Substances – Student-athletes shall not use illegal drugs or mood-altering substances at any time, during the season and/or off-season.

Chemical Use and Penalties for Violation of Training Rules with Alcohol or Drugs (Non-Felony)

A. Chemical Use

1. An athlete, regardless of quantity, shall not:
 - Use, consume, possess, buy, sell, or distribute any tobacco or vape at any time;
 - Use, consume, possess, buy, sell, or distribute any alcoholic beverage at any time;
 - Use, consume, possess, buy, sell, or distribute any controlled or other illegal or mood-altering substance at any time.
2. Athletes are responsible for their off-season and out of school behavior. These rules apply to an athlete’s entire school career (365 days/24 hours).
3. It is not a violation for an athlete to be in possession of a controlled substance specifically prescribed for the student’s personal use by his/her doctor. (Must comply with school procedures)
4. Athlete possession of substances containing alcohol under parent supervision for religious purposes will not be considered a violation of this policy.

B. Penalties for violation include:

Alcohol/Drugs:

1. First Violation:

After confirmation of the first violation, the student will be suspended a minimum of 20-percent of the current season or the next season that the athlete competes in. The penalty will be immediately assessed to the athlete’s next competitions. If the offense happens prior to the start of a season, the athletes may be permitted to try out for the sport but will then serve the suspension at the start of the season. The student can practice with the team if the coach/school permits him/her to practice during the suspension. Practicing during the suspension will be a local school decision. The student may not travel with the team during the suspension to competitions.

2. Second Violation:

After confirmation of the second violation, the student will lose a minimum of 50-percent of the current season or the next season that the athlete competes in. The penalty will be immediately assessed on the athlete’s next competitions. If the offense happens prior to a season starting, the athlete may be permitted to try out for the sport but will then serve the suspension at the start of the season. The student can practice with the team if the coach/school permits him/her to practice during the suspension. Practicing during the suspension will be a local school decision. The student may not travel with the team during the suspension to competitions.

3. **Third Violation:**

If a third violation occurs, the athlete will be suspended from all practices/competitions for one calendar year, and the athlete may be prohibited from ever representing his/her school in interscholastic activities at any time in the future.

4. **Fourth Violation:**

The athlete will lose the privilege to participate in extracurricular activities for their remaining time in school.

- Scrimmages are not counted as games; they are considered practices. When assessing a suspension, only regular season and playoff games count. If a student is suspended, playoff games count towards the suspension. For example; A football player is caught with alcohol after the 9th football game of the season. The football team has qualified for the state playoffs. The student-athlete must serve 20-percent, in this case, 2 games. The student-athlete will be suspended for the 10th game and the 1st playoff game. If the team wins in the playoffs, the athlete is eligible to play in the 2nd playoff game.
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- Suspensions for multi-sport athletes – A suspension can carry over from one sport to another sport. If an athlete cannot fulfill all of the 20% suspension in their current sport, the remainder of the suspension will occur during the season of the next sport they play. For this to be the case, the athlete must have played the 2nd sport the previous year (the exception is a 9th grader). An athlete cannot play a second sport just to avoid a suspension in their main sport. The athletic director will make the final determination in these cases.
- Suspensions for one sport athletes – If a suspension occurs at the end of the season, the athlete will serve their suspension the following year.
- Suspensions per sport are listed below.

20% Suspension Examples – Based on the number of scheduled games/matches/competitions.

Football	-	2 Games, MS 1 ¼ Games
Cheerleading	-	Same as the sport if sideline, 1 Meet for competition cheer
Softball	-	5 Games, MS 2.5 Games
Volleyball	-	4 Play Dates
Cross Country	-	2 Dates
Basketball	-	5 Games, MS 3 Games
Wrestling	-	4 Dates, MS 3 Dates
Tennis	-	4 Matches
Track	-	2 Meets
Baseball	-	6 Games, MS 3 Games
Golf	-	2 Matches

Tobacco/vapes:

1. First Violation:

After confirmation of the first violation, the student will lose a minimum of 10-percent of the current season or the next season that the athlete competes in. The penalty will be assessed to the athlete's next competitions. If the offense happens prior to the start of the season, the athlete may be permitted to try out for the sport and then will immediately serve the suspension at the start of the season. The student can practice with the team if the coach/school permits him/her to practice during the suspension. Practice during the

suspension will be a local decision. The student may not travel with the team during the suspension to any competitions.

2. Second Violation:

After confirmation of the second violation, the student will lose a minimum of 50-percent of the current season or the next season that the athlete competes in. The penalty will be assessed in the athlete's next competitions. If the offense happens prior to the start of the season, the athlete may be permitted to try out for the sport and then will immediately serve the suspension at the start of the season. The student can practice with the team if the coach/school permits him/her to practice during the suspension. Practice during the suspension will be a local school decision. The student may not travel with the team during the suspensions to any competitions.

3. Third Violation:

After confirmation of the third violation, the student is suspended for a minimum of one calendar year from extracurricular activities.

These rules and consequences are in addition to any other school discipline under the Code of Conduct. Because rules are consistently applied in all Jasper County Schools, an athlete may not regain eligibility by transferring to another school.

Criminal Activity:

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and/or students must report any arrest of a student or behavior in which law enforcement was involved, to their school administrators or coach within two weeks (14 calendar days) of the arrest or behavior. The two-week time frame includes weekends, school holidays, and summer vacation.

Felonies:

A student who is arrested for, or charged with a felony or charged with an act that would constitute a felony if committed by an adult shall be automatically suspended from interscholastic activities. Students will not be permitted to participate in preseason activities. The student shall remain suspended until: (1) The charges are completely dismissed; (2) The charges are reduced to a misdemeanor in which case the student may be subject to penalties outlined for misdemeanors or alcohol/drugs; (3) The student is found not guilty; or (4) The student successfully completes the consequences assigned by the judge or agreed to by the student, including probation or diversion. Evidence that the probation period has expired, fines have been paid and/or community service has been completed as required.

If a student has been arrested or charged with an offense, but the matter has been expunged, sealed, removed from a student's record, or the behavior has not been prosecuted (nolle prosequi), the student should present or obtain documentation as required by the school to determine the circumstances of the matter. These circumstances may not be sufficient to lift the student's consequences.

In-School Suspension (ISS)

Any student-athlete that is disciplined by assignment to In-School Suspension (ISS) is suspended from athletic competition until his or her assigned time is completed in ISS. Any further punishment will be determined by the head coach.

Suspension – Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)

If a student-athlete is disciplined by suspension from school, then he or she is suspended from being present at any athletic practice or competition. Once the suspension has been completed then the student-athlete can return to athletic practice and competition. Any further punishment will be determined by the head coach.

Dismissal

An athlete that is dismissed from a team may only return to that team with the permission of the head coach. The head coach must have a legitimate reason for dismissing an athlete (ex. Breaking rules, drug use, etc.). Before any athlete is dismissed from a team it must be reported to the athletic director.

Absences

Jasper County Schools policy prohibits participation in any extracurricular activity if a student is not present at school for at least one-half of the school day unless there is a clear and justifiable reason for the absence. Any student who is absent for more than one-half of a school day and wishes to participate in an extracurricular activity, including practices, on that day must receive approval to do so by **school administrators before the absence occurs.**

Practices: In-Season

Although practice schedules differ from sport to sport, it is our philosophy that our student-athletes are **students first and athletes second.** We strongly encourage our coaching staff to take this philosophy into consideration when developing practice and game schedules. There may not be any mandatory practices on Sundays and any Sunday practices are highly discouraged by the administration of Jasper County Schools. Any attendance at Sunday practices must be strictly voluntary and non-attendance by a student-athlete may not be used as a reason to disallow a student-athlete from any game participation time nor can a student-athlete be disciplined in any way for non-attendance of a Sunday practice.

Practices: Off-Season

Practices held during the off-season may not be mandatory nor may they be a prerequisite for participation or membership on a team. This means that a coach cannot require a student-athlete to make up a practice he or she misses out of season. While rewards and incentives may be used to encourage attendance, participation may not be made mandatory.

Consequences for Quitting a Sport During the Season

Student-Athletes are expected to complete the season of the sport in which they are participating in its' entirety. However, we recognize conflicts do arise and that there may be no other satisfactory solution than for a student-athlete to leave the team. If such a situation occurs, it is requested that the student-athlete and his or her parent(s) meet with the Head Coach, the school Athletic Director, and/or the

Principal to discuss the reason(s) for quitting the sport. If a resolution cannot be reached that would allow for continued participation, then all parties will agree that this is the best course of action.

If a student-athlete quits one sport, he/she will not be allowed to participate in another sport until that sport is out of season. Strong consideration will be given as to whether or not the student-athlete will be able to try-out and compete in another sport that year. In this case, the determination will be made by the Athletic Director in conjunction with the head coach of the sport that the athlete quit, the head coach of the sport the student-athlete will be trying out for, and the parents of the student-athlete.

Conflicts Among Extracurricular Activities

Jasper County Schools encourages students to become involved in a variety of extracurricular activities according to their individual interests and skills. The faculty and staff at Jasper County Schools are committed to working together to allow maximum student involvement. We recognize that this philosophy will result in conflicts between many extracurricular activities from time to time. Head Coaches and/or Sponsors, the school Athletic Director, and/or Academics Events Coordinator, along with the student and parent(s) will meet together to work out a satisfactory solution based on the following considerations:

- A. Best interests of the school
- B. Best interests of the student
- C. Best interests of the team/activity as a whole

A key component in reaching an agreement on the best course of action will be a priority statement by the student-athlete and his or her parent(s) identifying which activity takes priority over another in the case where conflicts occur among activities.

Fundraising

Student-athletes may be expected to assume some of the responsibility for fundraising (cookie, donut, or other commodity sales, car washes, and other revenue-generating activities) for their respective sports so that a concerted effort (school, community, coach, and student-athlete) can be directed toward funding programs and toward providing a quality experience. Individual coaches and supporters of programs should not begin any activities or approach area merchants for donations without permission from the Athletic Director and Principal.

Parental Support

Parental Support is essential to providing a quality athletic program. We encourage all parent(s), community members, and businesses in the community to support our athletic programs so that Jasper County Schools can provide the best opportunities for student-athletes to attain success through quality equipment and facilities.

Jasper County Charter Schools
Transportation Policy for Athletics

Students involved in all extracurricular activities at Jasper County Schools will be provided transportation to and from all away games/meets/matches. However, there will be instances where a student-athlete will be required to drive to a different location for practice. In these cases, a release for this travel must be on file with the Head Coach of that sport as well as the Athletic Director's office. A student-athlete may NOT transport another student-athlete unless he or she is a member of the same immediate family. Recent accidents and litigation have made this necessary. The student-athletes at Jasper County Schools will have a bus provided by the Jasper County Schools Board of Education and a trained driver to drive this bus to all away games/meets/matches. This is the safest way for all persons to get to and from events. Student-athletes at Jasper County Schools will not be released to any individual to ride private transportation following contests except the student-athletes parent(s) or legal guardian, and a release must be signed by the parent/guardian after the contest; no pre-approvals for being released to someone other than a parent/guardian will be allowed.

Jasper County Schools
Extra-Curricular Transportation Release Form

I understand that my child _____, age _____, will be a

passenger in a personally owned vehicle neither owned nor operated by Jasper County Schools. This

personal vehicle will be used to transport my child from _____ (school)

for extra-curricular activities related to _____ (name of activity).

I request that my son/daughter be allowed to travel in this fashion.

The undersigned agrees to release, discharge, defend, hold harmless, and indemnify Jasper County Schools, its agents, employees, officers, trustees, representatives, insurers and others acting on behalf of Jasper County Schools, of and from all claims, demands, causes of actions and legal liabilities for injuries or death to my child. I agree not to bring any claims, demands, legal actions and causes of action for any economic and non-economic losses due to bodily injury, death, or property damage sustained by my child while in the aforementioned privately-owned vehicle.

Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____