ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

2025 - 2026

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Athletic Department Mission Statement

The Seahawk Athletic Department is responsible for helping to mold student athletes into all they are meant to be, both on and off the field. We will strive to create young men and women who will be productive citizens within our community.

Franklin County School Equity Statement

The School Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, disability, pregnancy, marital status, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information which are classes protected by State and/or Federal law in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities.

Athletic Department Philosophy

Athletics in the field of public education is essential to the development of well-rounded individuals. Healthy bodies are equally as important as healthy minds. Specifically, organized athletics help the academic teacher in teaching cooperation and teamwork. The goal of public education is to help students become contributing citizens in a democratic society. Organized sports such as football, baseball, basketball, softball, and the like, are the ultimate simulations of cooperative learning.

Coaches are important people who have the opportunity to touch the lives of students in many different ways. Athletes watch their coaches on and off the field. It is obvious that athletes learn about hard work, discipline, goal setting, sportsmanship, and winning from their coaches. Less obvious lessons are those of honor, character, and respect for others. Coaches who truly care for their athletes, and not just about winning, teach athletes much more than the rules of the game.

Facilities

FCS facilities include the Mikel Clark Sports Complex, gym, locker rooms, multipurpose gym, and weight rooms. Use of these facilities is restricted to Franklin County Schools unless given written permission by the Superintendent, Principal, or Athletic Director.

Athletic Office

The Athletic Director, Anna Bull, can be reached at 850-670-2800 ext. 1924

Athletic Advisory Committee

Made up of administrator(s), athletic director/designee, classroom teacher and coach(s). This committee is responsible for reviewing and/or advising the school in regard to athletics. This includes any grievances brought by parents of student athletes. It is our responsibility to ensure that our athletes have the best experience possible while playing for Franklin County School.

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Discipline

Student Athletes are expected to exhibit good behavior at all times, in the situation that an athlete receives disciplinary action for their behavior, the following guidelines will be followed.

- If students acquire 1 or 2 days of ISS their coach will be notified, and appropriate consequences will be given.
- If students acquire 3 or more days of ISS (collectively or individually) Playing time will be docked accordingly per Athlete Advisory Committee. Students are still expected to attend the game/meet with their team.
- Students who are currently serving OSS are not permitted to be on campus or to travel with their team.
- If students acquire 3 or more days of OSS they are subject for review and determination of their case by the Athletic Advisory Committee.

Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA)

Franklin County Athletic Programs are governed by the FHSAA. Their web site is www.fhsaa.com.

The aim of the FHSAA is to promote, direct, supervise and regulate interscholastic athletic programs in which high school students, whose schools are members, compete. To accomplish this aim, the Association:

1. Establishes and enforces regulations to ensure that all such athletic programs are part of, and contribute towards, the entire educational program.
2. Cooperates closely with the Florida Department of Education in the development of athletic programs.
3. Promotes the spirit of sportsmanship and fair play in all athletic contests.
4. Enacts policies and guidelines that safeguard the physical, mental, & moral welfare of high school students, and protect them from exploitation.

Student Athlete Eligibility

1. All Student Athletes must have a current Physical (EL2) on file with the Athletic Director. Physicals are good for one year. You cannot participate if you do not have a current EL2.
2. All Student Athletes must have a current Parent Consent and Release from Liability Form (EL3) on file with the Athletic Director. You cannot participate if you do not have a current EL3
3. All Student Athletes must have a current signed Seahawk Code of Ethics on file with the Athletic Director.
4. All Student Athletes must maintain a 2.0 GPA. To be eligible at the beginning of the school year you must have been promoted from the previous grade.
5. Middle School Athletes (grades 6-8) cannot turn 15 before July 1st.
6. Junior High Athletes (grades 7-9) cannot turn 16 before July 1st.
7. High School Athletes (grades 9-12) cannot turn 19 before July 1st.
8. Middle School Athletes (grades 6-8) have 1 year of eligibility for each grade.
9. High School Athletes (grades 9-12) have 4 years (8 semesters) to play high school sports once

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they have entered the 9th grade.

10. All student athletes must be counted present for at least 4 periods on a game day in order to participate in the game or submit documentation for an excused absence.

Parent Communication

Every sport offered at Franklin County School will have a Preseason Parent Meeting. In this meeting parents will be informed of important information regarding the upcoming season as well as team communication.

Steps to Communicate with a Coach

1. Contact Coach and set up a meeting. (Not before, during, or after a Practice/Game).

    a. We ask for parents to follow a "24 hour policy" if you are upset about a situation at a game or practice, i.e. playing time or any other coaching decisions, please wait until the next day to communicate with the coach and set up a meeting.

2. If the situation is not resolved, contact the Athletic Director to set up a meeting.

Social Media Policy

The purpose of this policy is to establish a clear and concise set of guidelines for student- athletes to follow to help them make the best possible judgments and safeguard their personal privacy as well as protect the integrity of Seahawk Athletics and Franklin County School. Remember, playing and competing for Franklin County School is a privilege. The student- athletes, coaches, and staff represent Franklin County School both on and off the field and are seen as role models on campus and in the community. As leaders, we all have the responsibility to represent our teams, our schools and ourselves in a responsible and positive manner. Third parties including media, faculty, future employers and college recruiters can easily access social media profiles and view all personal information. This includes pictures, videos, comments posts and links. It is important to understand that once something is posted online, it never disappears. Inappropriate material found by third parties affects the perception of FCS student- athletes, the Seahawk family, and the School as a whole. It can also be detrimental to the future of our Seahawk family and the student-athlete's future employment options.

With those ideas in mind, the policy requires that student-athletes:

Protect and enhance the value of the Seahawk Athletics; avoid making derogatory comments about athletics, students, faculty or employees and protect confidential information.

Be aware that readers and followers on social media sites include media, current and future student-athletes, students, faculty, administrators, alumni, parents, coaches and community members as well as current/past/future employers. It is essential that student-athletes portray Franklin County School in a positive manner at all times.

Think before they post and anticipate how all the third parties that will see that post may react to it.

Examples of inappropriate posts:

a. Posting photos, videos, comments, posts or tweets showing the personal use of alcohol and/or

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tobacco products. (no holding cups, cans, shot glasses, guns, weapons, etc.)
b. Posting photos, videos, and comments that are sexual in nature. This includes links to web sites of a pornographic nature and other inappropriate material.
c. Posting pictures, videos, comments, posts and tweets that relate to drugs or drug paraphernalia.
d. ANY inappropriate or offensive language in comments, videos and other postings. This includes threats of violence and derogatory comments against race, gender, team affiliates or any other organizations.
e. Posting negative commentary regarding the performance of Franklin County Seahawk athletic teams or relating to the actions of an individual student-athlete, as well as any negative postings about team information (long bus rides, early morning practices etc.)

Transportation

Only required game personnel and players are to ride the bus unless the athletic advisory committee has approved a non-member or volunteer to ride on the bus. School Board policy 8660 identifies the steps for athletes to be transported by personal vehicles. Athletes will be allowed to travel home with their parents only after they have first secured written permission from the Head Coach.

Buses are not supposed to deliver any coaches, students, or any others to any other location without prior written approval from the Transportation Manager. If the return direction carries the buses through Carrabelle or Apalachicola the buses may stop and drop the students at the IGA in Carrabelle or Apalachicola Bay Charter School in Apalachicola. The bus drivers take their direction from the Transportation Manager.

Activity Buses run 4 days a week, M-Th. The time the buses will run depends on practice schedules and after school programs. The usual departure time will be 5:30pm, unless otherwise noted. Activity buses will not run if the number of students are at a minimum for that practice day. Students are required to secure their own transportation home from practice on Friday's and on days that the activity buses are not running and/or required.

Consequences For Not Finishing A Season

Athletes who do not finish the athletic season (quits, asked to leave by coach, parent pulls athlete from team, academically ineligible to finish out the season, etc.), then that athlete may not begin the next sport within a school year until the sport he or she has left has completed play. This includes any and all playoff games. This rule also applies to all levels of play – middle school, junior varsity and varsity. The athlete may not condition, practice or play with the next sport. If the athlete has begun practicing with a team but then left the team prior to dressing out for the first game, the athlete is free to begin the next sport with no restrictions. ONCE THE ATHLETE REMAINS ON THE TEAM BEGINNING WITH THE FIRST GAME, AND WHETHER OR NOT HE OR SHE ACTUALLY PLAYED IN THE GAME, THE ATHLETE CANNOT BEGIN THE NEXT SPORT UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF THE PRESENT ONE. A sports season begins at the first preseason meeting and ends when all equipment/uniforms are turned in.

Extenuating circumstances will be looked at by the Athletic Advisory Committee.

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FHSAA Fines

Any player actions that result in the school receiving a fine from the FHSAA may be required to pay said fee. Players will not be allowed to participate in any extracurricular activity until the fine is paid in full.

Team Banquets

There will be a Fall and a Spring Banquet each year. The Fall Banquet will include the following teams: Football, Volleyball, Cheer (non-competitive), Cross Country, and Golf. The Spring Banquet will include the following teams: Soccer, Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Track and Field, and Weightlifting.

SEAHAWK ATHLETICS CODE OF ETHICS

As we strive for excellence in our athletic program we are equally committed to the development of the total citizen. We will emphasize and expect all participants to show class and character as a representative of our school, city, state, and nation.

In developing the total student athlete, the emphasis will be placed on the following areas.

Good Conduct:

- Student-athletes are expected to demonstrate good behavior in all classes and be respectful of all FCS staff members.
- Student-athletes are expected to be positive leaders in our school community and treat others with respect and represent our school in a positive manner.
    - No profanity
    - Appropriate dress

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- Proper use of social media

Grades:

- All student-athletes must maintain a 2.0 GPA.
- Progress reports will be monitored by Coaches.

Be On Time:

- Student-athletes are expected to be on time and prepared for all team-related activities; failure to do so will result in consequences set forth by each coach.
- Parents are expected to pick students up from athletic events in a timely manner.

School Equipment and Uniforms:

- Student-athletes are responsible for all school issued items.
- Student-athletes must return all school issued items at the conclusion of the season or will be held financially responsible.

Missed Practices:

- Student-athletes are expected to communicate with their coach prior to any missed team activities.
- Coaches will communicate their policy for missed practices and games.

Off-Season Workouts:

- It is highly recommended that student-athletes participate in off-season conditioning.

SOMETHING TO REMEMBER:

Each one of us has unique gifts, abilities, and passions. How well we use these qualities to have an impact on the world around us determines how "successful" we really are. It's not about the wins and losses, it's about whether we gave our best to those around us. We all should want Franklin County School to be the best that it can be in **ACADEMICS, ATHLETICS, SPORTSMANSHIP, & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.**

Athlete Signature: _____ Parent Signature: _____

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