FRANKLIN MONROE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Player & Parent Athletic Handbook

2026-2027

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Preface

The rules and regulations in this handbook pertain to all student-athletes and cheerleaders grades 7-12. Having clearly stated policies and procedures which govern students who participate in extracurricular activities makes it easier to enforce rules, protect the administration from unnecessary challenges, and avoid unwanted litigation. Written policies, which are approved by the board of education, supported by the administration, and available to parents and students, also help the athletic administrators maintain consistency among the many activities they supervise. The success of the athletic programs depends on the understanding and cooperation of the administration and faculty in administering the basic athletic policies of the Franklin Monroe Board of Education. With the exception of local rules as defined in this handbook, Franklin Monroe High School and Junior High School athletes are governed by the rules and regulations contained in the handbook of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA).

I. Philosophy of the Franklin Monroe Athletic Department

To be a member of an athletic squad can be one of the most rewarding experiences a student can have in high school. The great feeling of honor, pride, and personal satisfaction that comes with being a member of a team has no equal. Not everyone can be in athletics. It takes something extra. It requires great personal sacrifice, hard work, desire, physical and mental courage, and devotion to a common cause. It should also be understood that participation is a privilege and not a right. Participation does not constitute playing time. As a member of our squads, you have accepted a great responsibility. You are representing the best of our school and community. This responsibility cannot be taken lightly. Extracurricular activities are an excellent compliment to the academic courses and provide the student athlete with a well-rounded education. The Franklin Monroe educational community believes that:

1. Athletes are students first and that shall never be compromised.
2. Athletics are for students who are willing to accept the guidelines established for participation.
3. Winning is only valuable when each participant's abilities develop while successfully focusing upon self-discipline, self-confidence, cooperation, respect, ethics, honesty, teamwork, goal-setting, fair play, and sportsmanship.
4. The purpose of high school athletics besides education is also recreational. The athletic program should encourage participation by as many boys and girls as possible and should be carried on with the best interest of the participants as the first consideration.
5. It is recognized that a well-organized and well-conducted athletic program is a prominent factor in the morale of a high school student body, and establishes pride while encouraging good community/school relations.
6. The objectives of athletic participation are:
    - ☐ To develop sportsmanship.
    - ☐ To develop pride.
    - ☐ To learn to accept constructive criticism.
    - ☐ To broaden and develop strength of character.
    - ☐ To develop team concepts and positive attitudes.
    - ☐ To develop leadership.
    - ☐ To learn to take responsibility.
    - ☐ To develop basic skills unique to each sport.
    - ☐ To learn to work toward a common goal.

The Franklin Monroe Athletic Department enforces that school associated athletics are not allowed to hold any events after 6:00pm on Wednesdays or anytime on Sunday. Athletics that are not associated with the school, such as youth athletics, are still able to request using the facilities for their events for these times. This applies to events that are classified as mandatory and optional.

There can be some exceptions to this, but only with extenuating circumstances will Wednesday evenings and Sundays be opened for athletics associated with the school.

II. Administrative Organization

One of the most important considerations for a coach, athlete or parent is who to go to in order to ask questions about any matter that may be of concern. The following chain of command should be used by everyone so that proper steps are followed to resolve problems, answer questions, or clear up concerns about athletic matters. School district administration has the opportunity to get involved at any level based upon the severity of the situation. Individual right of due process and rights of appeal are always understood. The following chain of command should be followed:

1. Athlete/Parent or Guardian
2. Head Coach
3. Athletic Director
4. Building Principal
5. Superintendent of Schools
6. Franklin Monroe Board of Education

III. Expectations of Athletes, Parents/Guardians, and Coaches

When an athlete participates for Franklin Monroe Local Schools, they must understand that their actions and conduct not only reflect on their character, but their family, their school, and their community.

Expectations for Franklin Monroe Athletes:

1. Be a positive role model at all times.
2. Display proper sportsmanship at all times, in victory and defeat.
3. Display proper behavior in school, and at all school and community related events.
4. Respect authority – parents, coaches, teachers, officials, administration, and all others.
5. Be dedicated to working hard, both for your own improvement and your team.
6. Be coachable and learn from your mistakes.
7. Have integrity.

8. Have a positive attitude.

It is important for parents/guardians to understand that they also represent Franklin Monroe at all school and community sponsored events. Their actions do reflect on their child's character, their school, and their community.

Expectations for Franklin Monroe Parents/Guardians:

1. Be a positive role model at all times.
2. Be supportive – participating for Franklin Monroe is an earned accomplishment.
3. Encourage commitment, positive values, and hard work.
4. Be positive – attitude is contagious. Being negative has a direct impact on athletes and can affect confidence, performance, and competitiveness.
5. Communicate fairly and openly with the coaching staff and follow the chain of command.
6. Read, understand, and monitor the Athletic Code of Conduct.
7. Attend preseason meetings, and learn and understand the rules of your child's sport(s).
8. Notify the proper personnel (coaches, Athletic Trainer, Athletic Director) of any injuries to ensure your child receives the appropriate care.

Coaches are in the spotlight of the community. Just like athletes and parents/guardians, the coaches for Franklin Monroe Local Schools must understand that their actions and conduct not only reflect on their character, but their team, their families, their school, and their community.

Expectations of Franklin Monroe Coaches:

1. Coaches will be a positive role model at all times.
2. Coaches are motivators to help athletes be the best that they can be.
3. Coaches will teach and promote sportsmanship both in and out of sports.
4. Coaches will be supportive and encourage athletes to participate in their respective sport as well as other interscholastic sports.
5. Coaches will be fair in all aspects.
6. Coaches will be loyal to their program and Franklin Monroe Local Schools.
7. Coaches develop team rules and enforce the Athletic Code of Conduct.
8. Coaches are teachers. They will help athletes set goals for performance improvement, while stressing team unity and developing winning attitudes.

9. Coaches will hold pre-season parent meetings for the purpose of communicating philosophy, expectations, team rules, and the importance of the Athletic Code of Conduct.

IV. Communication Expectations for Coaches and Parents/Guardians

As in any type of relationship or job, clear lines of communication are very important. When your child becomes a member of a Franklin Monroe athletic program, it is vital that the communication expectations and lines of communication are understood by all parties. Being a member of an athletic program can be one of the most rewarding experiences a high school student can have. While on a sports team, a student can experience moments that can change their lives forever. However, it is important to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way you or your son/daughter wants them to. We trust the coaches to make decisions based on what they observe, their knowledge, and what they believe to be in the best interest for the athlete and/or the team.

In situations where communication is needed to resolve a conflict or problem, the lines of communication developed through the chain of command must be followed. Please refer to page 4 to review the Athletic Organization Chain of Command or see below for the lines of communication to follow.

1. Communication between player and coach to work toward resolving any problems or conflicts.
2. Communication between parent and coach to work toward resolving any problems or conflicts.
3. Communication between Athletic Director, parent, player, and coach to work toward resolving any problems or conflicts.
4. Communication between Principal, Athletic Director, parent, player, and coach to work toward resolving any problems or conflicts.

When a problem, concern, or conflict reaches the point of scheduling a meeting there are appropriate and inappropriate issues to discuss with coaches. Parents should not attempt to confront a coach before or after a practice or game to discuss these issues. Please call or email the coach to set up a time to meet.

Inappropriate Issues to Discuss with Coaches:

1. Other athletes
2. Coaching/Program philosophy
3. Team or individual strategy

4. Playing time

Appropriate Issues to Discuss with Coaches:

1. Ways your son/daughter can improve
2. Concerns about behavior
3. Treatment of your son/daughter
4. Concerns about academic eligibility
5. Injuries and treatment

V. Athletics Code of Conduct

Student-athletes at Franklin Monroe Local Schools must understand and remember they are role models and representatives of our school. They must strive to develop and maintain a high set of standards and carry themselves as such in the classroom, as a part of their sports teams, and in the community.

Every student-athlete at Franklin Monroe is expected to abide by the standards and expectations set forth by the Franklin Monroe Local School District. This expectation does not begin and end in respect to the school calendar; it is a responsibility that must be held all year, 365 days. This handbook and the coaches are responsible for informing his/her student-athletes of the rules and regulations that govern their specific sport as specified in the Franklin Monroe Athletic Handbook and the coaches' own program specific rules.

Infractions of the coaches' sport specific rules, the Student Code of Conduct, as outlined in the student handbook, the Franklin Monroe Athletic Handbook, the OHSAA regulations and bylaws, and the Ohio Revised Code shall be reported to the Athletic Director and/or Principal to ensure appropriate action can be taken. Other punishable infractions are, but not limited to, use of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs, destruction and/or vandalizing property, sexual harassment or imposition, hazing/harassment, and fighting.

Student-athletes who violate the Student Code of Conduct, special team rules and/or the Franklin Monroe Athletic Handbook and Athletic Code of Conduct may receive any or all of the following punishments.

1. Denial of Participation
2. Suspension from school
3. Recommendation for expulsion from school
4. Criminal Charges
5. Other punishments as seen fit

Each individual case will need to be reviewed by the Athletic Director and/or Principal to determine the context in which the violation(s) occurred, the circumstances surrounding the violation(s), and whether or not the violation(s) are subject to penalty.

A. Substance Abuse/Possession – Tobacco, Nicotine, Alcoholic Beverages, Drugs:

All who coach believe that an athletic program is worthwhile not only to the individuals who take part, but also to the entire school and community. It is felt to be essential to adhere to training rules and thereby keep in top physical condition.

No student-athlete shall use or possess alcohol, tobacco, and/or nicotine, and/or any paraphernalia. Any student-athlete violating the Athletic Code of Conduct, in-season or out of season, on campus or off campus, as it appears in regards to substance abuse, will be denied participation under the following guidelines:

1. **First offense:** The first offense during an athletic career (starting in 7th grade) will result in denial of participation for 20% of the regularly scheduled games for the season. This includes all games (including tournament contests) have been completed.
   NOTE: If the violation occurs with less than 20% of the season remaining, the penalty shall carry over to the following chosen sport.
2. **Second offense:** The second offense during an athletic career (starting in 7th grade) will result in denial of participation for one calendar year.

The possession and/or use of illegal drugs or illegal drug paraphernalia is strictly prohibited. No student-athlete shall use or possess illegal drugs. Any student-athlete violating the Athletic Code of Conduct, in-season or out of season, on campus or off campus, as it appears in regards to illegal drugs, will be denied participation under the following guidelines:

1. **First offense**: The first offense during an athletic career (starting in 7th grade) will result in the denial of participation in contests and practices for one calendar year in all athletics.
2. **Second offense:** The second offense during an athletic career (starting in 7th grade) will result in the denial of participation in contests and practices for two calendar years in all athletics.

Disciplinary Consequences – Denial of Participation Requirements

1. Any infraction of this rule, which may result in denial of participation, may be directly referred to the principal for review/investigation.

2. The Athletic Policies of the Franklin Monroe School District are in effect year round (365-day policy). The student-athletes must comply with the denied participation requirements, even if it carries over to another season or school year. Non-participation of contests must be consecutive, not selective.

3. If applicable, the penalty will be carried over to the next chosen sport, however, the athlete must complete the current season of participation, or the full penalty will be applied to the next chosen sport.

4. In the case of multiple violations, consequences will be imposed consecutively. The athlete cannot begin a second penalty until the first penalty has been completed.

5. During the period in which the athlete is denied participation, the student-athlete may be expected to attend practices, sit on the bench in appropriate street clothes, and follow all rules, regulations, requirements, and expectations of that sport.

6. Students who are alternately placed due to (but not limited to): In-school suspension, Out of school suspension, and/or expulsion may have participation rights removed.

Coaches are encouraged to talk with their athletes about alcohol, tobacco, and drugs on a continual basis, and stress the fact that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege, not a right.

VI. Regulations for Participation

A. Attendance

Good attendance and punctuality are important lessons to be instilled in our athletes both for school and practices. Student-athletes are expected to be in attendance during the school day in order to participate in interscholastic athletics. Student-athletes who are dismissed at 2:30pm daily must be in attendance no later than 11:00am (midpoint of the school day) to participate in athletic activities on that date unless their absence is due to a school activity, or a valid excuse that has been approved by the Principal or Athletic Director (i.e. Funeral, death in the family, doctor's appointment). Students who are dismissed before 2:30pm daily must be in attendance no later than 8:25am (start of 2nd period) to participate in athletic activities on that date unless excused as listed above. Student-athletes must also be in attendance for the entirety of their school day (normal dismissal time) unless their early dismissal is for a valid excuse, as listed above, to participate in athletics on that date. If a student leaves school early for being sick, they are not permitted to participate in athletic activities on that date. Athletic activities include practices, games, or any other team events.

Saturday contests are not affected by weekday attendance.

It is very important to understand the attendance policy for interscholastic athletics. If a student-athlete is to participate in a contest on a day that they are absent from school or left school early for an unexcused reason, that student-athlete will be denied participation for the next two contests.

B. Academic Eligibility

The academic eligibility guidelines are established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and the Franklin Monroe Board of Education.

1. In accordance with the scholarship bylaw established by the OHSAA, all incoming 7th graders are immediately eligible.
2. All incoming ninth graders must have passed a minimum of five one credit courses, or the equivalent, in which they were enrolled the immediately preceding grading period, and have no more than one failing grade. Each of these one credit courses must count toward graduation.
3. Students must continue to attain a 2.0 grade point average (GPA), be passing five credits toward graduation, and have no more than one failing grade at the end of each grading period in order to be academically eligible.
4. Academic eligibility for each grading period is determined by grades received during the preceding grading period. Semester grades, yearly averages, final exams, and summer school have no impact on academic eligibility. Fourth quarter grades will determine eligibility for the remainder of the spring and the first grading period of the following year (fall sports).
5. A grade of an incomplete (I) on the grade card at the time of issuance is not a passing grade.
6. Students who are suspended from school are ineligible to practice, participate, and accompany the team during the suspension.
7. Students choosing to enroll in College Credit Plus courses must be enrolled in enough courses at an outside institution exclusively, or combined between Franklin Monroe and an outside institution to satisfy the requirement of 5 credits toward graduation or the equivalent.
8. Students should not drop classes and/or make schedule changes without consulting the Guidance Counselor. Schedule changes can result in change in eligibility.
9. Failure to meet the OHSAA and Franklin Monroe Board of Education academic guidelines will result in the student-athlete being academically ineligible for that current nine week grading period.
10. Student-athletes can become eligible again once the next quarter grades are received and are in good standing.

11. If a student-athlete is declared academically ineligible, the period of ineligibility will begin the day grade cards are issued, but no later than five days after the grading period has ended (as stated by OHSAA bylaws).

C. Athlete Paperwork

In order for student-athletes to begin participating on athletic teams, there is required paperwork that must be completed and turned in to the Athletic Director. All forms must be completed in their entirety before any student-athlete can begin participating as a member of the team (this includes beginning practice). The required forms are as follows.

1. Pre-participation physical exam (form found on school website)– all physical exams must be completed and forms signed by a physician must be submitted to the Head Coach and/or Athletic Director.
2. Registration and acceptance of all forms on Final Forms (https://franklinmonroe-oh.finalforms.com/) – forms on this system will include Risk and Release Acknowledgement, Student Participation Contract, Acknowledgement of Athletic Handbook and Code of Conduct, and any form(s) required by a sport program that are provided by the head coach.

D. Injured Athlete

Student-athletes join athletic programs with the understanding that injuries may occur. When these injuries occur, there are established protocols that must be followed to ensure the continued safety of our student-athletes. The Athletic Trainer at Franklin Monroe that is contracted by a hospital/sports medicine group is responsible for enforcing these injury protocols.

1. Any student-athlete who has been denied participation by a physician will not be permitted to compete in practices and/or contests until a physician's release has been obtained.
2. Franklin Monroe's Athletic Trainer has the authority to deny participation of an injured athlete.
3. A coach, parent, or student-athlete cannot override a physician's or Athletic Trainer's decision to deny participation.
4. All injured athletes should attend practices, contests, and/or team functions, injury permitting.
5. OHSAA Concussion Guidelines must be followed:
    a. Student-athletes showing symptoms of a concussion after a head injury are not permitted to return to play (practice or game) that day.
    b. The student-athletes should be evaluated and cleared by a physician before they can return to play. An OHSAA Concussion Release Form sign by a physician is required.

c. Once the student-athlete is cleared by a physician, the five-day return to play protocol will begin with the Franklin Monroe Athletic Trainer before they can resume full participation.

E. Dismissal from Team/Quitting

1. The varsity coach of each program will be responsible for making the final decision with respect to who will be the members of his/her team.
2. Student-athletes dismissed from one team may try out for another sport during the same season, providing they report to the new coach the day immediately following being cut.
3. During a season when two sports are conducted, a student-athlete who quits one sport before the first contest may try out for the other sport, so long as approval is obtained from both coaches involved and the Athletic Director.
4. A student-athlete who quits after a team's first scheduled contest (including scrimmages) may not participate in any other sport or conditioning program until that season ends.
5. A student-athlete may not quit a sport without the permission of the coach, Athletic Director, and/or Principal. If a student-athlete does quit without permission, he/she is subject to denial of further participation in that sport for one calendar year.

F. Transportation/Travel

The OHSAA Catastrophic Accident Insurance Policy covers team and group travel directly to and from athletic events. All participating student-athletes must travel to and from athletic events in school authorized vehicles; student-athletes are not to transport themselves to or from athletic events, with the exception of golf (due to the golf course being off site). Permission to make alternate travel arrangements from an athletic event may be granted, given the student-athlete provides detailed, written permission from their parent(s)/guardian(s) prior to trip departure. Student-athletes will only be released to their own parent(s)/guardian(s). See FM Student Handbook for transportation policy.

G. Two Sport Participation

Student-athletes may not participate in two sports in the same sport season without an agreement between both coaches, parent(s)/guardian(s), and the Athletic Director. An agreement must be reached before the

start of the sport season and the student-athlete must then declare a primary sport. Although a primary sport has been declared, the student-athlete must keep their commitment to both athletic programs and make a conscious effort to participate in both teams' practices, schedule permitting.

All parties involved must understand that scheduling conflicts will occur. When a game is scheduled in conflict with a practice, the student-athlete should participate in the game. When a regular season game is in conflict with an Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) sponsored event, the student-athlete should participate in the OHSAA event.

If there is further conflict between two activities regarding a student-athlete, then the coaches/advisors of the activities must meet with the student-athlete to come to a solution. It is hoped that all staff will work together for the betterment of all programs. Small school districts, like Franklin Monroe, need to be supportive and work together.

H. Individual Athletic Program Rules

Coaches may have their own team rules in addition to the Franklin Monroe Athletic Code of Conduct and Handbook. These team rules must be provided to the Athletic Director for approval prior to the beginning of his/her sport season and distributed to the student-athletes participating on their sports team.

VII. Awards

Listed below are the athletic awards to be given at different levels of participation. In order to receive any awards, a student-athlete must complete the entire season as an eligible member of the team. For high school athletics, the head coach will determine which student-athletes are awarded varsity letters.

1. 7th and 8th grade athletes will receive a participation certificate.
2. Junior Varsity athletes will receive a participation certificate.
3. Any non-lettering athletes will receive a participation certificate.
4. First year Varsity Letter athletes will receive a FM letter and/or sports pin.
5. Second year Varsity Letter athletes will receive a varsity sports patch.
6. Third year Varsity Letter athletes will receive 3RD year chevron.
7. Fourth year Varsity Letter athletes will receive 4th year chevron.

AWARD CHANGES WOULD TAKE PLACE STARTING WITH THE CLASS OF 2028

Franklin Monroe student-athletes will also have the opportunity to be awarded additional, special awards.

1. WOAC All-Academic Team – Varsity Letter and 3.5 GPA or higher for the nine-week quarter
2. WOAC All-Conference Awards – Voted by coaches of the WOAC teams
3. Sport Specific Special Awards – chosen by the head coaches

Student-athletes must be present at their sport specific awards banquet to receive any awards, unless excused for a valid reason by the coach and/or administration.

VIII. Inclement Weather

It is the responsibility of the school to cancel if inclement weather arises before a contest. After a contest begins, it is the game officials' responsibility. Safety will not be jeopardized and cancellations will be made. Re-scheduling will be done, if possible, and is required for all WOAC contests with specific guidelines. A coach should cancel practice if outside practice is being conducted. It is "optional practice" with no reprisal if student/athletes do not attend practice due to inclement weather. When school is cancelled due to *inclement weather*, contests and practices will be cancelled unless special circumstances exist.

IX. Franklin Monroe Athletic Department & School Board Ejection Policy

The Franklin Monroe Athletic Department and School Board supports good sportsmanship among all of its athletes, coaches, parents, and fans. Anyone who is involved in coaching, playing, or watching an athletic event at Franklin Monroe is expected to maintain a high level of sportsmanship and ethics while attending a Franklin Monroe sporting event. A fan that is ejected by an official, a member of the Franklin Monroe administrative team, or any member of the security staff on duty will be asked to leave the building immediately and will be suspended from that team's next two home games. A fan that is ejected by an official of a member of the Franklin Monroe administrative team or any member of the security staff on duty for the second time in any season will be suspended from that team's games for one year from the date of the infraction. If the first ejection occurs with less than two home games to go in a season, the suspension will carry over to the next school year in the sport in which the ejection occurred.

Acknowledgement of Athletic Handbook and Code of Conduct

Please sign and return to the head coach or the Athletic Department.

We, _____ and _____

Parent/Guardian Student

have received and read the Franklin Monroe Athletic Handbook and Code of Conduct. We understand the rights and responsibilities pertaining to student-athletes and agree to support and abide by the rules, regulations, guidelines, procedures, and policies of the Franklin Monroe Athletic Department.

_____ _____

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

_____ _____

Student Signature Date