



FALL RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ELEMENTARY ATHLETICS PROGRAM

STUDENT-ATHLETE HANDBOOK

2026–2027

Participating Schools:

John J. Doran Community School
Henry Lord Community School
James Tansey Elementary School
Alfred Letourneau Elementary School
Carlton Viveiros Elementary School
Frank M. Silvia Elementary School
Spencer Borden Elementary School
Mary L. Fonseca Elementary School
William S. Greene Elementary School
Westall Elementary School
Samuel Watson Elementary School

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Fall River Elementary School Athletics Program is to provide a fun, safe, and educational athletic experience in an atmosphere of sportsmanship. We aim to help students build teamwork, confidence, and respect while developing basic athletic skills, character, civility & citizenship.

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The Fall River Elementary School Athletics Program believes that participation in athletics supports the overall growth of young students. Athletics at the elementary level focus on skill development, teamwork, and enjoyment of physical activity.

Students will learn how to:

- Work cooperatively with teammates
- Show respect for coaches, officials, and opponents
- Handle winning and losing in a positive way
- Build healthy habits through physical activity

Coaches and families play an important role in modeling positive behavior and encouraging effort, participation, and good sportsmanship. At this level, the emphasis is on learning and participation in a competitive environment.

PROGRAM GOALS

- Provide a fun and positive athletic experience
- Encourage participation for all students
- Teach fundamental skills and rules of each sport
- Promote teamwork, respect, and sportsmanship
- Support physical fitness and healthy habits

SPORTS OFFERINGS

FALL

- ☐ Cross Country (Co-ed)

WINTER

- ☐ Boys Basketball
- ☐ Girls Basketball

SPRING

- ☐ Track & Field (Co-ed)

Elementary athletic offerings in Fall River Public Schools are intentionally selected to ensure equity across all schools by prioritizing sports that are affordable and accessible to every student. Because not all schools have the same access to specialized fields or facilities, the program focuses on activities that require minimal equipment and can be held in shared or adaptable spaces. This approach allows all students—regardless of their school’s resources—to have equal opportunities to participate, build skills, and experience the benefits of athletics in a fair and inclusive environment.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

STUDENTS MUST:

- Have a current physical (13 months)
- Submit all registration forms
- Be in good academic standing
- Maintain good conduct in school
- Attend school the full day to practice that day
- Attend school the full day preceding a game/meet
- Attend practices regularly
- Can only play for the school they attend

CODE OF CONDUCT

STUDENT ATHLETES ARE EXPECTED TO:

- Show respect
- Use appropriate language
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship
- Follow directions
- Be responsible and prepared
- Represent your school in a positive manner at all times
- Comply with all school and team rules and policies

☐ Fighting = removal

☐ Drugs/alcohol/vaping = prohibited

ATTENDANCE

- Good attendance is expected of all athletes
- Must attend practices consistently
- Participation may be limited if absent

PARENT COMMUNICATION

APPROPRIATE PARENT/COACH TOPICS

- Student development
- Behavior concerns

NOT APPROPRIATE:

- Playing time
- Strategy
- Other students

STEPS FOR MEETING:

1. Contact coach
2. Contact school Administration/Athletic Director

HAZING POLICY

Massachusetts law strictly prohibits hazing in all school-sponsored activities, including athletics. Hazing is defined as any activity or method of initiation that intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of a student. This can include physical acts, forced activities, or situations that cause humiliation, stress, or harm. Students who participate in or organize hazing may face serious consequences, including school discipline, fines, or legal action. In addition, anyone who is aware of hazing is required by law to report it to school officials or law enforcement. Schools must also educate students about hazing and enforce clear policies to prevent it, ensuring a safe and respectful environment for all participants.

Hazing is strictly prohibited and will result in disciplinary action per Massachusetts law.

STUDENT-ATHLETE AGREEMENT

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the expectations, rules, and guidelines outlined in the Fall River Elementary School Athletics Handbook. I agree to follow these expectations and understand that participation in athletics is a privilege that requires responsibility, respect, and good sportsmanship.

I understand that failure to follow these guidelines may result in disciplinary action, including suspension or removal from the athletics program.

Student Name: _____

School: _____

Grade: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____