Lee's Summit R-7
Middle Schools









2026-2027

Athletic/Activities Handbook

Handbook

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WELCOME

To R-7 Activity and Athletic Programs

Welcome to the R-7 Athletic and Activities program. We are excited that you have chosen to participate (and be involved) in one or more of our outstanding programs. Statistics show that involvement in extracurricular and co-curricular programs yields a great number of benefits including increased GPA, better attendance, less discipline issues, more likely to refrain from alcohol and drug use, an increased connection to their peers and their school, and many skills/traits that lead to success beyond high school. We hope the information provided within this handbook familiarizes you with the expectations and policies relative to your participation in LSR7 programs.

The R-7 School District encourages you to take advantage of as many opportunities as your time and talent will permit. We do not encourage specialization in one sport or activity; rather, we would encourage you to experience a variety of endeavors. Naturally, due to conflicts in seasons, practice times, schedules, etc., some choices will have to be made. We support you as you strive to grow emotionally, mentally, socially, and physically through our activities and athletics.

LSR7 ATHLETIC/ACTIVITY PURPOSE STATEMENT

The interscholastic athletic activities programs of the Lee's Summit School District integrate into a comprehensive educational program that has lasting importance on students' current and future success. Through character-based programs we prepare students to become adults of integrity and compassion who model excellence in all aspects of their life while meeting the district's mission of: "***We Prepare Each Student for Success in Life."***

PHILOSOPHY

The interscholastic athletic and activities programs in LSR7 place the highest priority on the overall quality of the educational experience. LSR7 will strive to provide and maintain a comprehensive athletic and activities program that seeks the greatest development possible of its participants within the framework of the total district educational program. Participation in activities and athletics is a privilege available to all eligible students. We believe that LSR7 athletics and activities provide a unifying influence within our student body, between our schools and community. Through the implementation of education-based athletics and activity programs, led by caring coaches and sponsors, the focus is on human growth and preparing participants for a successful life. The interscholastic activities program shall be conducted in accordance with existing Board of Education policies and rules and regulations, and with the general objectives of each school.

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR EXCELLENCE IN ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

During the fall of 2022, LSR7 led a strategic planning process to ensure that all students and programs across the secondary level had an opportunity to experience success, to feel valued, and to believe that their program is a priority. Over 160 stakeholders (including students, staff, parents, district leadership, and community members) took part in the process. The group arrived at establishing five areas of focus to further this aim.

Focus Area #1 - Marketing and Communications

LSR7 will develop and implement a holistic and inclusive communication and marketing strategy that conveys all aspects of the activity program offered at the secondary level.

Focus Area #2 - K-12 Development of Programs

LSR7 will improve alignment and access to education based activities across elementary, middle, and high school activity programming.

Focus Area #3 - Resources and Facilities

LSR7 will provide premier facilities and necessary resources that address our current and future programming needs.

Focus Area #4 - Quality Systems / Processes in Place to Support Daily Practice

LSR7 will implement quality systems and processes to support daily operations.

Focus Area #5 - Safety and Welfare of Students

LSR7 will prioritize the mental, physical, and social wellbeing of all students.

Annually, all secondary buildings, the Aquatics Center, and the District Athletic and Activities Office will establish Action Areas (specific, measurable goals) to support the five Focus Areas that are identified above. Additionally, each program will identify 1-2 program level goals to support these areas and the building level goals.

It is our belief that the strategic planning process has created an intentional framework that can be used districtwide to create an enhanced student experience through activities.

PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES

Activity and Athletic Commitment

We believe that school activities outside of the regular school day enhance the education of each student. We encourage you to commit yourself to being the best you can be both in and out of the classroom. As a student participant, you are in school to secure the best secondary education you are capable of achieving. If the value of activities is to be achieved, certain responsibilities are expected of the student participant. Because you are in the public eye, your personal conduct always must be above reproach; you have an obligation to create a favorable image and gain the respect of your teammates, the R-7 student body, and the Lee's Summit community.

You are also expected to:

- Strive to achieve sound citizenship and desirable social traits, including emotional control, honesty, cooperation, dependability, and respect for others and their abilities;
- Maintain academic citizenship and eligibility standards as established by the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) and R-7 Schools;
- Learn the spirit of hard work and sacrifice;
- Learn to attain physical fitness through good health habits; Desire to excel to the limits of your potential;
- Show respect for both authority and property;

Be willing to accept the leadership role that is instilled through the activity/athletic programs.

Basic Participation Policies

- Students are allowed to make their own activity participation selections. It is the R-7 policy that students facing a conflict between two R-7 sponsored activities will be given a choice of which to attend. Certain school activities (to be determined by building administrators) will have priority. Students are not to be penalized by the activity not attended.
- Lee's Summit middle school policy requires students ride the bus to all school activities and return from all out-of-district school activities. Departing from this policy releases the Lee's Summit School District from all liability for any adverse results that may occur. A parent/guardian may make a request to transport the student by directly contacting the coach/sponsor to seek permission. An R-7 Activity Travel Release form must be completed specifying who is being transported and signed by the appropriate parent/guardian.

- If it is necessary to be absent from practice, the student is expected to obtain permission from the head coach prior to the scheduled practice. Unexcused absences will result in disciplinary action from the coach under the activities practice policy.
- Students must be in attendance during the school day for a minimum of four consecutive hours, including the end of the school day, to participate in any activity scheduled for that day. A student may not leave school and be absent through the end of the school day and then return for an activity. Exceptions are granted with administrative approval only.
- In the event of truancy by or suspension of students, they will not be eligible for participation until they have fulfilled the disciplinary requirements established by the administration.
- In the event that students are assigned an after school detention period as the result of a discipline problem, they are not allowed to use the excuse of "I have practice, so I can't stay." Classroom and school discipline obligations always come first.
- The possession or use of alcohol, tobacco, or nonprescription drugs or misuse of prescription drugs are known to be detrimental to the individuals as well as the team they represent. If a student should choose to use, possess, or distribute alcohol, tobacco, or non-prescription drugs or misuse prescription drugs, disciplinary action that may affect student eligibility will be taken consistent with R-7 policy.

ACADEMIC & CITIZENSHIP ELIGIBILITY - MIDDLE SCHOOL

Academic grades, attendance, and student conduct will affect eligibility to participate in or attend activities or athletics. Students are ineligible for interscholastic activities if:

- the student is failing two or more classes. Students will be ineligible for interscholastic activities during the quarter after receiving the grades.
- the student is not in attendance 4 consecutive hours, including the end of the school day, on the day of the activity a student may not leave school and be absent through the end of the school day and then return for an activity.
- on the day of the activity, the student is assigned In-School Suspension or Out-Of-School Suspension.
- the student does not abide by the activity's practice and late ride pickup policies.
- a proper attitude is not maintained toward the sponsor or coach.
- Home School, Family Paced Education, and full-time virtual students are now eligible to participate in athletics and activities at their school of residence. If a student is wanting to participate in Band/Orchestra/Choir the student MUST be enrolled and take the in-person class to be eligible. Contact your building AD for more information.

Citizenship Expectations

Students who represent a school in interscholastic activities must be credible citizens. Those students whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon themselves or their school are not considered "credible citizens." Conduct shall be satisfactory in accord with the standards of

good discipline [MSHSAA By-law 2.2, Citizenship Requirements].

Credible citizens are:

1. Students who adhere to the R-7 chemical use and possession policy (see p. 10).
2. Students who do not attend parties where minors possess or use alcohol and/or possess or use non-prescription drugs.
3. Students who are in good standing with the judicial and/or legal system.
4. Students who are not under school suspension as a result of disciplinary consequences.
5. Students who choose not to be present where illegal activities are occurring.

Citizenship Requirements

a. *Law Enforcement: A student who commits an act for which charges may be or have been filed by law enforcement authorities under any municipal ordinance, misdemeanor or felony statute shall not be eligible until all proceedings with the legal system have been concluded and any penalty (i.e. restitution, community service, counseling, etc.) has been satisfied. If law enforcement authorities determine that charges will not be filed, eligibility will be contingent upon local school policies. Moving traffic offenses shall not affect eligibility, unless they involve drugs, alcohol, or injuries to others. After a student has completed all court appearances and penalties, and has satisfied all special conditions of probation and remains under general probation only, local school authorities shall determine eligibility.*
b. *Local School:*
    1. *A student who violates a local school policy is ineligible until completion of the prescribed school penalties.*
    2. A student who is expelled or who withdraws from school because of disciplinary measures shall not be considered eligible for 365 days from the date of expulsion or withdrawal.
    3. If a student misses class(es) without being excused by the principal, the student shall not be considered eligible on that date. Further, the student cannot be certified eligible to participate on any subsequent date until the student attends a full day of classes.
    4. Each individual school has the authority to set more restrictive citizenship standards and shall have the authority *and responsibility* to judge its students under those standards.
    5. *Each school shall diligently and completely investigate any issue that could affect student eligibility.*
c. *Student Responsibility: Each student is responsible to notify the school of any and all situations that would affect his/her eligibility under the above standards. If the student does not notify the school of the situation prior to the school's discovery, then the student shall be ineligible for up to 365 days from discovery, pending review by the Board of Directors.*

R-7 Citizenship Violation Consequences.

Non-credible citizenship may result in disciplinary action. These actions may include parental contact, one-on-one conferences, extra athletic conditioning, benching, non-participation in interscholastic games, and/or a percentage of the inter- scholastic season withheld. **Ultimately,** removal from participation and/or the team can occur. A student shall not be considered eligible while under suspension. Students/parents should have written citizenship expectations and

consequences from those R-7 coaches who set more restrictive standards per MSHSAA by law 2.2 and the R-7 Citizenship Expectations policy.

Academic grades, citizenship, attendance, and student conduct may affect eligibility to participate in or attend clubs, activities, or programs outside of the classroom.

Each individual school and/or coach has the authority to set more restrictive citizenship standards and shall have the authority to judge its students under those standards [MSHSAA By-law 2.2, Citizenship Requirements].

Sportsmanship Philosophy

Lee's Summit R-7 School District is a member of the Greater Kansas City Suburban Conference and Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA). As members of these groups, we adhere to policies set down for the display of good sportsmanship by athletes, students, fans, parents, and patrons. Member schools are expected to enforce sportsmanship rules for their own schools, players, and spectators.

Sportsmanship Policy

As a student-athlete participating voluntarily in interscholastic activities/athletics:

- Students will abide by the school's student code of conduct as outlined in the school's student handbook, the coaches' team rules and the rules of the MSHSAA.
- Students will conduct themselves according to established academic, citizenship, and sportsmanship expectations at all times.
- Students will be responsible for all athletic equipment issued to them throughout the season, will return such equipment at the end of the season, and will pay the current replacement cost for any of the equipment not accounted for at the end of the season.
- Students will not use or be in possession of tobacco, alcohol, or narcotics. If they do use or possess any of these substances, they will be subject to school and team disciplinary actions This is a year-round commitment.
- Students acknowledge that they have been properly advised, cautioned and warned by administrative and/or coaching personnel of the school district that they are exposing themselves to the risk of injury. It is still their desire to participate in sports and to do so with full knowledge and understanding of the risk of injury.
- Students agree to allow their picture, as part of an activity group, to be posted on schools' social media and website. They also agree to allow their name and sports-related information to be included in game programs.
- Students, along with their parents/guardians, certify that they have read and understand all of the school district athletic policies in the school's student handbook. In order to remain eligible for participation, students must comply with all requirements.
- Parents/Guardians of a student/athlete will support the positive participation of students in the athletic/activities program, promote their academic and citizenship

efforts, and provide a role model consistent with the expectations of the R-7 Middle School Sportsmanship Code.

MSHSAA ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES - MIDDLE SCHOOL

MSHSAA requires student participants to provide information that will be documented on the MSHSAA Participation Certificate. The following information is required before a student may participate in activities designated at the school as interscholastic sports. To satisfy each of these requirements, parents/guardians must create a Final Forms account (see Athletics website) where parents/guardians and students will complete and sign all required forms:

1. Parent/Guardian Permission Form
2. Pre-Participation History Form
3. MSHSAA Concussion Materials
4. Activity/Athletic Commitment Form
5. Student Agreement
6. Completed Physical Exam Form

Parental/Guardian Permission

A student shall furnish a statement, signed by the student's parents/guardians, which grants permission for the student to participate in interscholastic athletics.

Insurance

Students shall not be permitted to participate in interscholastic athletics until the school has verification that they have basic athletic insurance coverage.

Authorization of Treatment

A student shall not be permitted to participate in interscholastic athletics until the student's parents/guardians give written authorization for emergency treatment.

Pre-Participation History - DO NOT UPLOAD IN FINAL FORMS

This MSHSAA required form is to be completed by parents/guardians and provided to the physician prior to the physical examination. This form is **NOT** to be submitted/uploaded to the student's Final Forms account.

MSHSAA Medical Eligibility Form - UPLOAD IN FINAL FORMS

The school shall require of students participating in athletics a certificate of an issued physical *signed, authorized, and dated* by a MD/DO/ARNP/PA/DC stating that the individual is physically able to participate in athletic practices and contests of their school. Students shall not be permitted to practice or compete for a school until a complete, signed certificate is on file at the school. The medical certificate is valid for two years (730 days) from the date of issue for the purpose of this rule.

ACTIVITY/ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FEES – MIDDLE SCHOOL

The R-7 athletic/activity program goal reflects that student activities and athletics are an integral part of the total secondary educational program because they provide experiences that will help students to acquire additional knowledge and skills, plus they help students gain the attributes of good citizenship. Students wishing to participate in any MSHSAA sponsored activity/sport will be charged $25 for yearly participation. A maximum participation fee of $50/family will be charged for participating in activities/sports. Please consult the building assistant principal/activities director for any questions or concerns regarding the participation fee. The following guidelines will assist with implementation for the collection of fees:

1. The student will not be allowed to participate in an activity/contest until the fee is paid in full.
2. If students are cut from a team but have already paid the fee, they will be reimbursed upon request.
3. If a student quits or is suspended from a team or performing group after the first scheduled event, no refund will be granted.
4. If students are injured during or after the first scheduled game so that they can no longer compete, the fee will not be refunded.
5. Other extenuating circumstances, such as a student transferring to another district prior to the first activity or season or a student being placed on homebound, may be considered by the building administrator for reimbursement.
6. Students qualifying for the free lunch program will be exempt from the activity participation fee. Students qualifying for the reduced lunch program will pay 50% of the participation fee. Student/ parent/guardian should contact the building principal to verify their free or reduced lunch status. Each case will be evaluated independently.
7. Activity fees will be collected at registration or through the school office.

MSHSAA Activity/Athletic programs are defined as:

Athletics	**Activities**
Basketball	Academic Team
Cross Country	Cheerleading
Football	
Track & Field	
Volleyball	
Wrestling	

CARE OF EQUIPMENT

Any equipment lost or stolen must be paid for by the student in whose name it was issued. Following these guidelines will reduce the chance of lost or stolen equipment:

1. Do not exchange or loan to another teammate any of the equipment checked out to the student. If exchange is warranted, clear it on with the coach.
2. Except when students are in visual contact, they should keep locker lockers closed and LOCKED at all times. School and personal equipment and belongings should be locked up at all times.
3. Any loss of equipment should be reported immediately to the head coach, rather than waiting until the end of the season.
4. Any protective equipment that does not fit properly or that has any defective parts should be reported to a coach immediately. Do not wear the equipment until the necessary adjustments have been made. This is for students' protection.
5. It is against MSHSAA regulations to sell or rent any equipment to individuals. The R-7 athletic departments strictly adhere to this regulation. Therefore, any equipment seen out of the school environment does not belong to individuals. Please report any such violation to a coach or the athletic administrator.

PROPOSAL PROCEDURES - NEW ACTIVITY

The following steps are required for initiating a new activity or for providing guidelines to staff advisors for administering one that has been established.

1. Investigate the interest and needs of students for the activity.
2. Select a knowledgeable and enthusiastic staff advisor.
3. Hold a preliminary meeting (or meetings) with the staff advisor and students.
4. Involve students in the formulating and adoption of objectives for the activity.
5. Present objectives and a general plan to the principal (or activities director) for approval.
6. Prepare a Constitution and By-Laws. Standards for membership and procedures for upholding these standards should be included. The Constitution and By-Laws should be presented to the principal or activities director for approval and then to the student senate for chartering.
7. Elect officers: Make certain that students understand the significance of selecting leaders who meet well-defined qualifications for the privilege of representing other students.
8. The staff advisor shall provide guidance to officers and members of committees. Check to make certain that chairpersons understand proper parliamentary rules and presiding techniques. Care should be taken to make certain that thorough preparation has been made for all meetings and programs. The students should look to the staff advisor as a resource person.

9. The objectives, standards to be applied, values to be received, general plans, etc., should be carefully reviewed at the first regular meeting of the organization. It is suggested that this be done by others whose preparation for the presentations has been reviewed by the staff advisor. It is extremely important that students be fully involved, but that their involvement will achieve worthwhile objectives.
10. Evaluate each meeting and each program. The staff advisor should make his/her own evaluation but should also guide students in making an evaluation of their own. Much of this evaluation will be subjective in nature. The following questions will prove helpful:

    - Were the objectives of the activity worthwhile?
    - Did the activity contribute toward the attainment of these objectives? What could have been done better?
    - What changes should be made to provide a better activity?

Chemical Use/Possession Policy

Philosophy

R-7 School District recognizes that the use and/or possession of tobacco and mood-altering chemicals as a significant health problem for adolescents, resulting in negative effects on behavior, learning, and the total development of each individual. The possession or use of tobacco and of mood-altering chemicals, such as alcohol, drugs, marijuana, etc., by adolescents effects extra-curricular participation and the development of related skills.

Statement of Purpose

1. To recognize and elevate the physical and emotional potential of students in a positive manner, and encourage the growth of these students in an atmosphere of responsible citizenship.
2. To emphasize the school's concern for maintaining and improving the health and safety of students while participating in activities.
3. To promote his/her awareness of the long-term physical and emotional effects of chemical use on health.
4. To promote equity and a sense of order and discipline among students.
5. To confirm and support existing state laws that restrict the use of chemicals.
6. To establish and promote high standards of conduct for those students who are leaders and standard-bearers among their peers.
7. To assist students who desire to resist peer pressure that directs them toward the use of chemicals.
8. To provide prevention guidelines for chemical abuse in the activity programs for students and staff advisors of R-7 School District.
9. **The expectation of the R-7 School District is that credible citizenship is to be a year-long commitment. Non-credible citizenship could result in disciplinary action or removal from participation.**

Objectives

To establish a prevention program that includes penalty guidelines, as well as, assurance that fair treatment is received for the action. The three major components of fair treatment are:

1. Consistency — enforcement of consequences will follow the violation.
2. Appropriate — fair penalty for the act.
3. Timely — promptness of the process; must be immediate.

Consequences for Chemical Abuse

Credible citizenship is a year-round responsibility. The following rule includes the school year, summer, and season of practice, play, or rehearsal:

Regardless of quantity, a student shall not use or possess tobacco; have in possession or use a beverage containing alcohol; use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell, or give away ***illegal drugs or chemicals,*** *or any substance defined by law as a drug specifically prescribed for the student's own use by his/her doctor; or use or be in possession of drug paraphernalia. The use of prescribed or non-prescribed performance-enhancing products is greatly discouraged by the Lee's Summit R-7 School District.*

The use of each type of chemical can adversely affect the student on a short- or long-term basis. Chemical substances are defined as tobacco, alcohol, mood-altering chemicals, and drug paraphernalia.

The following are minimum guidelines that shall be applied for the violation of the chemical abuse rules. Each coach/sponsor shall have the option of assigning additional penalties for any violation.

First Violation Penalty: Following confirmation of the violation, the student loses eligibility to participate in the next match/contest(s) that occur in a consecutive, chronological sequence. The student/athlete shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition and may not participate for a minimum of 40% of his/her competitive season. The matches/contests cannot be selected. The student must meet all other team obligations as defined by the coach/advisor of that activity. Also, it is the student's responsibility to obtain services from a licensed counseling or rehabilitation service for 10 hours of drug/alcohol counseling. Written documentation from the service provider must be given to the Building Athletic/Activities Director before the student can participate in activities.

Second Violation Penalty: The student shall be ineligible for 365 days, beginning with the date of the violation.

The following are minimum guidelines that shall be applied for the violation of the tobacco abuse rules which includes all types of E-Cigarettes. Each coach/sponsor shall have the option of assigning additional penalties for any violation.

First Violation Penalty: Following confirmation of the violation, the student loses eligibility to participate in the next match/contest(s) that occur in a consecutive, chronological sequence. The student/athlete shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition and may not participate for a minimum of 20% of his/her competitive season. The matches/contests cannot be selected. The student must meet all other team obligations as defined by the coach/advisor of that activity.

Second Violation Penalty: Following confirmation of the violation, the student loses eligibility to participate in the next match/contest(s) that occur in a consecutive, chronological sequence. The student/athlete shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition and may not participate for a minimum of 40% of his/her competitive season. The matches/contests cannot be selected. The student must meet all other team obligations as defined by the coach/advisor of that activity.

Third Violation Penalty: The student shall be ineligible for 365 days, beginning with the date of the violation.

Violations occurring at the end of the season, off-season, or during the summer
The loss of eligibility carries over to the next season in which the student/athlete participates. For example: If a student commits a violation during the last contest of the season, he/she loses eligibility (as per the consequence of the category involved) in the next season of participation. The 40% formula will be reworked per the next season of participation. Counseling and/or rehabilitation services must begin during the season of the violation.

Anti-Hazing Policy

Hazing is defined as, including, but not necessarily limited to, any action or situation created, whether on or off school premises, which might reasonably be expected to result in mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. This definition includes the following activities; but is not limited to:

- Paddling
- Creation of excessive fatigue
- Physical and psychological shocks
- Requiring or encouraging the wearing of apparel in public that is conspicuous and normally not considered in good taste
- Public ridicule of students, including morally degrading or humiliating games and activities
- Late work sessions, excessive time demands, or other requirements that interfere with academic performance
- Demanding or encouraging any other activities that conflict with civil law and/or school policies

Disciplinary consequences will occur to anyone or any team found to be guilty of hazing.

According to Missouri state statutes "consent" to hazing is not a defense.

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES PRACTICE POLICY

Student-participants are expected to attend all practices on time on the days they attend school, unless agreement has been reached by the coach/sponsor and parents/guardians no later than the day previous to the scheduled practice session.

Infraction Consequences:

1st Infraction: Partial participation in the next scheduled contest/event.
2nd Infraction: No participation in the next scheduled contest/event.
3rd Infraction: Dismissal from the activity group or team.

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES LATE RIDE PICKUP POLICY

To ensure student safety and maintain a structured environment, all students must be picked up promptly at the end of the school day and after-school activities. Event times are communicated through the school calendar, announcements, and advisory periods. Students who are consistently picked up late—whether after regular dismissal or extracurricular events—pose supervision and safety challenges, as staff are not available for extended monitoring. If late pick-ups become a pattern, the following steps may be taken:

Infraction Consequences:

1. Initial warning and communication with the parent/guardian
2. A conference to develop a timely pick-up plan
3. Possible restriction from participating in future after-school events (e.g., clubs, mixers, sports)

We understand that occasional delays happen and ask families to notify the school if an emergency arises. However, repeated late pick-ups without communication may impact a student's ability to participate in after-school activities.

MSHSAA ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY TRANSFER POLICY

All 8th grade students who are interested in playing sports at LSHS, LSNHS, or LSWHS next year need to be aware of the transfer policy of the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA). In-district transfers that are deemed to be made for athletic reasons could result in the student becoming ineligible for 365 days.

MSHSAA NON-SCHOOL COMPETITION

The athlete may compete in organized non-school sponsored athletic competition under the following conditions: (Note: The following restrictions shall apply only to sports in which MSHSAA member schools compete interscholastically.) During the sport season students represent their school by competing in an interscholastic athletic contest:

A. They shall neither practice nor compete as members of a non-school team or as individual participants in organized non-school competition in that same sport (SEE AD FOR SPECIAL MSHSAA ALLOWANCES).

- Definition of school sports season - a school sports season shall be defined as the period beginning with the date of the school's first practice with any part of a sports squad held on or after the first allowable practice date for the MSHSAA sport season and ending with the school's last contest, including district and state tournament contests, in that sport. EXCEPTION - For fall sports, the official school sports season shall begin as of the Tuesday following Labor Day or as of the date of the school's first practice with any part of a sports squad held on a school day, whichever occurs later.
- Definition of organized non-school competition - Athletic competition shall be considered "organized" if any of the following conditions exist: Competition is scheduled and publicized in advance, official score is kept, individual or team standings are maintained, official timer or game officials are used, admission is charged, teams are regularly formed or team rosters are predetermined, squad members are dressed in team uniforms or a team is privately or commercially sponsored. Further, competition which is either directly or indirectly sponsored, promoted or administered by an individual, organization, or any other agency shall be considered organized.
- A student who joins a school sports squad for the first time must have abided by these restrictions beginning with the first day of the current season of the sport concerned.

B. They may practice or compete as members of a non-school team or as individual participants in organized non-school competition in a different sport than the school sport in season under the following conditions:

- No school time is missed to compete, practice for, or travel to the site of such non-school competition unless the absence is approved in advance by the school administrator.
- Students shall not practice for or compete in the non-school competition on the same date they practice or compete for the school team without approval of the school administrator.

MSHSAA PROTECT ELIGIBILITY

Lee's Summit R-7 middle schools are members of MSHSAA, a voluntary, nonprofit, educational association of middle, junior, and senior high schools established for the purpose of working cooperatively in adopting standards for supervising and regulating interscholastic activities and contests.

One of the primary functions of the MSHSAA is to establish eligibility standards that must be met by all students to attain the privilege of representing their school in interscholastic activities. Eligibility is a privilege to be granted to a student by the school which allows that student to participate in interscholastic activities.

Eligibility is not a student's right by law. Precedent setting legal cases have determined that eligibility is a privilege to be granted only if the student meets all standards adopted by the school.

MSHSAA SPORTSMANSHIP

The Lee's Summit R-7 School District is a member of the Greater Kansas City Suburban Conference and the MSHSAA. As members of these groups we adhere to policies established for the display of good sportsmanship by athletes, students, fans, parents/guardians, and patrons. Member schools enforce sportsmanship rules for their own school, players, and spectators. Violation of rules can result in the following consequences: written reprimand, probation, suspension, ejection, or permanent removal from events. Consequences are in force for players, coaches, students, fans, parents/guardians, and patrons. All school discipline policies and rules apply to Lee's Summit R-7 students at school activities whether they are held on school property or away from school.

Sportsmanship Code

Middle School For Players, Coaches, and Fans:

1. Maintain pride in self and school.
2. Strive to keep high standards of conduct.
3. Cheering is always encouraged for one's own team.
4. Positive signs may be displayed for one's own team.
5. Treat opposing team players, coaches, and fans with respect.
6. No noise makers.
7. No continuous standing unless spirit sections are designated.
8. Abide by the decisions of officials.
9. Accept victory or defeat graciously.

*Student fans not able to abide by the Sportsmanship Code and/or school guidelines may be removed from current and/or future contests.

MSHSAA VISITORS TO SCHOOL PROPERTY/EVENTS

The Board encourages district patrons to exhibit good sportsmanship, citizenship, ethics, and integrity at all district events. The district will work with the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) and other organizations to promote good behavior by the patrons at athletic and other events.

Provisions

- Disruptive individuals must leave school grounds. Any individual who disrupts or threatens to disrupt school or office operations, threatens the health or safety of students or staff, willfully causes property damage, uses loud and/or offensive language that could provoke a violent reaction or who has otherwise established a continued pattern of unauthorized entry on school district property will be directed to leave school district property promptly by the school's principal or other chief administrative officer. The Board and administration will not tolerate any person or persons whose presence disturbs classes or school activities or hinders the instructional process. If such persons fail to opt to leave the school premises upon request, the superintendent, building principal or designee may contact the proper legal authorities, file a report or sign a complaint on behalf of the district.

- Directions to staff in dealing with abusive individuals. If any member of the public uses obscenities or speaks in a loud, insulting and/or demeaning manner, the administrator or employee to whom the remarks are directed will calmly and politely warn the speaker to communicate in a civil manner. If the abusive individual does not stop the behavior, the district employee will verbally notify the abusing individual that the meeting, conference or telephone conversation is terminated; if the meeting or conference is on district premises, the employee shall direct the abusive individual to leave promptly.

- Provide policy and report incidents. When a staff member determines that a member of the public is in the process of violating the provisions of the policy, the staff member should provide a written copy of this policy to the individual at the time of occurrence, if feasible. The staff member will then immediately notify a supervisor and provide a written report of the incident or contact local law enforcement, if necessary. In any case in which a school principal or the superintendent or designee believes that any repeat violations of this policy may occur, a letter should be sent to the individual who has violated the policy, enclosing a copy of the policy and setting forth any restrictions on the individual's access to district facilities that may be reasonable under the circumstances (R-7 Board Policy KK).

PARENTS/GUARDIANS/COACH/SPONSOR COMMUNICATIONS

Parents/Guardians/Coach Relationship

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing mutual understanding, everyone is better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to students. When students become involved in a program, parents/guardians have the right to understand what expectations are placed on students. This begins with clear communication from the coach. Coaches and parents/guardians are expected to encourage and praise students in their attempt to improve themselves as students, athletes, and citizens. Parents/Guardians can facilitate this by gaining an understanding and appreciation of all aspects of the sport/activity and the expectations placed on students.

Communication Coaches/Sponsors Expect from Parents/Guardians

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach/sponsor.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concern in regard to a coach's/sponsor's philosophy and/or expectations.

Parents/Guardians and coaches should help students learn that success is achieved through the development of skills and should make student-athletes feel good about themselves, regardless of the outcome of any contest. As students become involved in the programs in the R-7 Schools, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way parents/guardians or students wish. If parents/guardians have a concern, they should take time to talk with coaches in an appropriate manner, including proper time and place, being sure to follow the designated chain of command.

Communications the Parent/Guardian Should Expect from the Student's Coach/Sponsor

1. Philosophy of the coach/sponsor.
2. Expectations the coach has for the student.
3. Location and times of all practices, contests, and events.
4. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
5. Procedure should the student be injured during participation.
6. Discipline that results in the denial of the student's participation.

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches/Sponsors

1. The treatment of the student mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help the student improve.
3. Concerns about the student's behavior.
4. Concerns about the student's participation.

Sometimes it is very difficult to accept when students are not playing as much as parents/guardians may have hoped. Coaches/sponsors are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. As seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with the student's coach/sponsor. Other things must be left to the discretion of the coach/sponsor:

Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches/Sponsors

1. Playing time.
2. Team strategy.
3. Play calling.
4. Other student's participation.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach/sponsor and the parent/guardian. These are encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. Everyone involved is expected to be respectful, to recognize and show appreciation for the other's role, and to reinforce the school's Student Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct and policies and procedures as outlined in this handbook. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

If Parents/Guardians Have a Concern to Discuss with a Coach/Sponsor, the Following Procedure Should Be Followed:

1. Call to set up an appointment with the coach/sponsor.
2. Please do not attempt to confront a coach/sponsor before, during, or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent/guardian and the coach/sponsor. Meetings of this nature usually do not promote resolution.

What Can a Parent/Guardian Do if the Meeting with the Coach/Sponsor Did Not Provide a Satisfactory Resolution?

Call and set up an appointment with the Building Activities Director to discuss the situation.

TOBACCO-FREE ENVIRONMENT

Middle school facilities and grounds (inside and outside) are a tobacco-free environment. There is to be no smoking/vaping inside the building or outside on any school or athletic grounds.