

Marion County R-II Student Activities Handbook



2023-24

The Mustang Way

1. Mustangs are different. We celebrate this and we do not apologize for it. To be different you must have a different perspective, a different philosophy, and be willing to do things differently. That is exactly what we do, every single day.
2. Mustangs live their life by the “Big Three” (Attendance, Effort, and Attitude). The “Big Three” allow us to separate ourselves from normal and become different. There is a direct correlation between your future success in life and the “Big Three.”
3. There is a time and place for almost everything. Understanding this philosophy is critical in “making it” as a Mustang and in life. You have got to learn how to play the game: our game and the game of life.
4. A mistake is only a mistake when you have a poor attitude. For Mustangs, a mistake is an opportunity to learn and get better. Accept responsibilities for your own actions, this goes a long way here and in life.
5. There are three ways to fail at everything and anything: complain about everything, blame others for your problems, and never be grateful.
6. Mustangs are kind. Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. It is easy to be kind to people who can do something for you, but how do you treat those who can do nothing for you? Your life and our school will become better, by you trying to make other people’s lives better.
7. Mustangs do not blame others for their mistakes or problems. Everyone has problems and obstacles they must overcome, it’s called life. Mustangs overcome obstacles by helping each other in times of need. Refuse to be a victim, fight to overcome your problems.
8. Mustangs work hard and play hard. Understand what a right is and what a privilege is. Classroom time will always be the number one priority. Sports and extracurriculars will be secondary.
9. Mustangs have pride in our school and community. Never miss an opportunity to improve our school or community by your actions or words. You will have multiple opportunities everyday to do this, take advantage of them.
10. Mustangs are not perfect, but we will always work to be our best.

WELCOME

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the Marion County R-II

School Athletic and Activity Program and wish you the best of luck in your endeavors. Always remember that you are representing your team, school, and community in addition to yourself.

This handbook should answer many of your questions concerning involvement in Marion County R-II school activities and athletics. If you have further questions or comments, please call the school at 439-5913.

STAFF

Athletic Director	Lori Shuck
High School Girls Basketball	Ryan Wood
High School Boys Basketball	Reed Plunkett
Jr. High Girls Basketball	Ryan Wood
Jr. High Boys Basketball	Logan Krigbaum
Girls Softball	Logan Krigbaum
Boys Baseball	
H.S. Track	Ryan Wood
Jr. High Track	Isaac Gottman
Band, Vocal Music	Adam Brown
Cheerleading	Margaret Keilholz/Erica Goodwin
Cross Country	Erin Wright

Marion County R-II High School and its extracurricular programs are members of the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) and are governed by the rules and regulations that are set forth.

ACTIVITY POLICY

MARION COUNTY R-II SCHOOL

PHILOSOPHY

Interscholastic activities shall supplement the secondary curricular program and shall provide most worthwhile outcomes that will contribute toward the development of the attributes of good citizenship. Emphasis shall be upon teaching "through school activities". To this end only can interscholastic activities be justified.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

Through our activity program we will work:

1. To ensure that interscholastic activities shall supplement the curricular program of the school to provide opportunities for youth to acquire worthwhile knowledge, skills, and emotional patterns.
2. To promote the educational values inherent in interscholastic activities this will contribute to the accepted aims of education.
3. To develop standards for the approval and direction of interscholastic activities and contests.
4. To formulate minimum uniform and equitable standards of eligibility that must be met by students to attain the privilege of representing their school in interscholastic activities.
5. To foster a cooperative spirit and good sportsmanship on the part of school representatives, school patrons, and students.
6. To develop qualities of strength, endurance, agility, and neuromuscular skill in our athletes.
7. To offer desirable social and competitive experiences that will instill courage, alertness, emotional control, and good sportsmanship in our athletes.
8. To follow all of the regulations set forth in the constitution and by-laws of the Missouri State High School Activities Association Official Handbook.

It is with these objectives in mind that this activity handbook has been written by the athletic director and coaches of Marion Co. R-II Junior and Senior High School. As with any handbook, situations may arise that are not covered. Should this be the case the situation will be dealt with by a cooperative effort between the school administration, athletic director, and coach.

24 HOUR NO CONTACT WITH COACH POLICY

Extra-curricular and co-curricular events often represent the extremes of emotions. Profanity and confrontational behavior will not be tolerated. Parents/Guardians who have a complaint should not contact the coach/sponsor through any verbal or written communication within 24 hours after a game or performance. This will allow adults to calm down and not react in an emotional manner in front of their children.

Complaints should be handled in a one on one manner out of sight of other players and parents. Steps in the grievance process are:

1. Student meets with coach/sponsor before or after practice.
2. Parent meets with coach/sponsor following the 24-hour grace period.
(Please contact the Athletic Director or Administrator so that this meeting can be scheduled.)
3. Parent, Coach/Sponsor and Administrator meet.

*****Failure to follow these procedures and breaking the 24 hour rule will result in the following consequences for all offending parties:

First offense: Suspension from all school sponsored extra-curricular/co-curricular activities. The suspension will be a time period set by the Athletic Director and Administrator no less than two weeks and no greater than twelve weeks or the rest of the season, whichever is greater, depending on the severity of the action taken by the adult in question.

Second offense: Suspension from all school sponsored extra-curricular/co-curricular activities. The suspension will be a time period set by the Athletic Director and Administrator no less than twelve weeks and no greater than 365 days depending on the severity of the incident. The offending person or persons may also be banned from school premises as deemed necessary.

Third offense: Suspension from all school sponsored extra-curricular/co-curricular activities. The suspension will be a time period set by the Athletic Director and Administrator no less than 365 days with the possibility of being suspended indefinitely. The offending person or persons may also be banned from school premises as deemed necessary.

Sportsmanship is an EXPECTATION, so please...Let the players play, let the coaches' coach, let the officials officiate, and let the spectators be POSITIVE!

ELIGIBILITY STATEMENT

Eligibility is a privilege to be granted by the school to a student which allows that student to participate in interscholastic activities. Eligibility is not a student's right by law. A precedent setting legal cases have determined that eligibility is a privilege to be granted only if the student meets all school adopted standards which enables the school to grant the student such a privilege.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

A. The first priority of a student should be his/her academic development. Our activity programs offer opportunities for social, physical, and emotional development, but these objectives are considered a second priority when compared to academic development. It is for this reason that minimum academic standards for eligibility to participate in an activity program have been established.

For a student to maintain their Activity Eligibility at Marion County R-II, they must earn 3 units of credit each semester or 70% of the maximum allowable credits which may be earned, whichever is greater. If a student does not meet this requirement he/she will become ineligible to participate in the activity for the following semester.

Students receiving a "F" at the quarter will be considered "Not in Good Standing" and will be restricted in participation per the High School Handbook

Grades 7-8: Even though you may have been promoted to a higher grade at the end of the previous year, you will be ineligible if you failed more than two courses the previous semester.

B. **CITIZENSHIP STANDARDS:** Students who represent our school in interscholastic activities must be credible citizens and judged so by the proper school authority who certifies a list of students for competition. Those students whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon themselves or our school are not considered "credible citizens." Building and classroom conduct shall be satisfactory in accord with the standards of good discipline.

Disciplinary Consequences: An In-school Suspension will result in the student missing the next contest, event or game (this refers to MSHSAA related activities only). An out-of-school suspension will result in the student not participating during the suspension and for five additional school days after the student is allowed back in school. 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.

ABSENCES

The coach must be informed in advance of any practice session or squad meeting that cannot be attended by an athlete.

If an injury or illness exists, and it is not serious enough to keep the athlete at home, then he will be expected to at least observe the practice session. Two unexcused absence from practice will result in the student missing the next activity.

ATTENDANCE

No student may attend or take part in any activity unless he/she is in attendance all day the day of the activity. In the case of an event being held on a day when school is not in session, attendance on the previous school day is required. Students must be in school, on time, the day after participating in an activity. Failure to do so will result in missing the next activity. Accepted absences will include doctor appointments, dental appointments or a death in the immediate family. Other accepted absences will be left to the discretion of the administration.

DRESS CODE

The dress code for practices, events, contests and games will be left to the discretion of the coach but must meet school policy regulations.

INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR AT AN EVENT

Athletics is the most visible part of our school system. Rarely, is the public given an opportunity to see the other functions of our school as often as they see our athletic programs. Our classroom instruction and other extracurricular programs have far less public exposure.

The behavior of our athletes is very important. Our athletes represent not only themselves, but also their classmates, school, and community. We must therefore stress proper behavior and the consequences for improper behavior in our athletic programs. These rules have been written to encourage our athletes to represent our community in a positive manner at all times.

The succession of penalties in this section of the handbook will start over with the beginning of each sport season.

An athlete's penalized for undesirable conduct which is determined not to be malicious or aggravated (such as running onto a field or court at an inappropriate time, dunking during pre-game, wearing jewelry, and others) will result in a warning on the first offense, missing a game on the second offense, and missing two games on the third offense in a season.

An athlete that shows unsportsmanlike conduct that is determined to be caused by an uncontrolled anger or frustration (such as cursing; slamming a ball to the field or court; throwing equipment; verbally threatening a spectator, player, or official; and others) will result in missing the next game on the first offense, missing the next two games on the second offense, and being removed from the team on the third offense in a season.

Fighting in any form will not be tolerated. Fighting includes pushing, wrestling, striking, or any other aggravated, physical act toward another person. If attacked by another, we expect our athletes to protect themselves and then back away from the incident. Striking a person, no matter who begins the incident, will not be considered self-defense. If an athlete is involved in any such incident and acts in some matter other than simply protecting himself, he/she will be considered to have been fighting. If an athlete fights he/she will be removed from the remainder of the current game and the next game on the first offense and will be removed from the remainder of the current game and the team on the second offense in a season.

SMOKING

The use of tobacco decreases physical efficiency and will not be tolerated. An athlete caught by a member of the coaching/teaching staff or the administration will be disciplined as follows: First offense-two week restriction from participation; Second offense-restriction from participation for the remainder of that sports season; Third offense-restriction from participation for the remainder of the school year.

DRINKING

Drinking under the age of 21 is illegal; therefore, it cannot be tolerated. An athlete convicted by legal authorities of illegal use or possession of alcohol will be suspended from the team for the duration of that sport for that academic year. A student athlete caught drinking by a member of the coaching/teaching staff, administration, or a law enforcement official will be disciplined as follows: First offense-two week restriction from participation; Second offense-restriction from participation for the remainder of that sports season; Third offense-restriction from participation for the remainder of the school year.

DRUGS

The use of illegal controlled substances (drugs) will not be tolerated. An athlete convicted by legal authorities, or caught possessing or using drugs by a member of the coaching/teaching staff, administration, or a law enforcement official will be suspended from the team for the duration of that sport for the academic year.

Any student who, at any time or place, is involved in, charged with or admits to, or is convicted of violating the law by committing an offense punishable by the laws defined in federal and state statutes and municipal ordinances, except for minor traffic violations, or is found to be delinquent by Missouri law, shall be subject to being declared ineligible for a period of time appropriate for the offense. The testimony of a law officer may be used as adequate grounds for evidence against an athlete who has broken one of the Activity Policy rules.

TRANSPORTATION

All students participating in school sponsored activities requiring transportation will be transported by school furnished transportation. All sponsors will first secure permission from the administration. Bus transportation is recommended for all groups involving more than five students. All students will be required to return by school furnished transportation unless verbal and written permission is given to the Administration/coach by the parent for the student to return with his or her parents.

Verbal or written permission for the child to ride with another party is not satisfactory unless it has been approved by the administration prior to leaving for the activity. All infractions of this rule will be immediately reported to the administration. All sponsors and teachers are held responsible for the enforcement of this rule.

INJURIES

It is important that athletes inform a coach of any injuries sustained during a practice or game. In most cases, the coaches will be aware of athletes that are hurt, but situations can happen where the coach might not have noticed an injured athlete. Coaches must be informed of any such cases so that the proper actions are taken.

EQUIPMENT

In order to give the student a sense of responsibility and an appreciation of their equipment, each athlete will be held responsible/accountable for the abuse or loss of it. **ANY EQUIPMENT LOST OR STOLEN MUST BE PAID FOR BY THE STUDENT IN WHOSE NAME IT WAS CHECKED OUT.**

The following guidelines, if adhered to, will reduce the chances for lost or stolen equipment:

1. Do not exchange or loan any of the equipment checked out to you to another teammate. Exchange or loan only after given permission by your coach.
2. Keep your locker closed and LOCKED at all times when not in visual contact. This includes during showers.
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 your protection.

5. All equipment should be worn only at school and never outside of school unless permitted by the coach in charge of the sport.

As part of the lettering policy for all sports at MCR-II ALL EQUIPMENT MUST BE TURNED IN CLEAN & CARED FOR OR PAID FOR IF LOST OR STOLEN BEFORE ANY AWARDS CAN BE RECEIVED! This includes letters, certificates, plaques, etc.

LEAVING TEAM DURING SEASON

If an athlete who is participating in an activity quits that activity, he/she is not eligible to begin participating in another activity. The period of ineligibility will last only as long as the season of that activity from which the student quit. Any athlete who leaves an activity by consent of the coach may be eligible to begin participation in another activity during that season.

TRAINING RULES

Individual coaches may establish training rules for their athletes and penalties for those not following those rules. These training rules will be given to the athletes when the pre-season practices begin.

PARENTAL PERMISSION

Prior to each year of interscholastic athletic participation, a student shall furnish a statement, signed by the student's parents or guardians, which grants permission for the student to participate in interscholastic athletics.

PHYSICAL EXAMS AND INSURANCE

The school shall require each student participating in athletics a physician's certificate stating that he or she is physically able to participate in athletic contests of his or her school.

A student shall not be permitted to practice or compete for a school until it has verification that he or she has basic athletic insurance coverage.

CONDITIONING STANDARDS

Each squad must have 14 days practice on 14 different days and each individual must have participated in 14 school practices on 14 different days prior to the first game in which a student participates, except when a student has been a member of another school sports squad immediately preceding and has had the 14 days conditioning.

SEMESTERS OF PARTICIPATION

A student shall not participate for more than four seasons while in grades 9 - 12 in any interscholastic activity, and these shall be during the student's first eight semesters of attendance in high school beginning with his or her entrance in the ninth grade, and the eighth semester shall follow immediately the seventh semester. Any part of a contest or interscholastic event in which a student competes shall count as a season participation in that activity.

A student is eligible for only two semesters in each the seventh and eighth grade beginning with the first semester of entrance in each grade. A student who is repeating a grade is not eligible.

ENTERING SCHOOL

You must enter school within the first 11 days of the semester in order to be eligible.

AMATEUR AND AWARD STANDARDS

Any student who represents a school in an interscholastic sport shall be an amateur.

An athlete forfeits amateur status in a sport by competing for or accepting money or other monetary compensation; receiving any award or prize of monetary value; capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money, a gift of monetary value, or merchandise; or signing a professional playing contract in that sport.

Accepting a nominal, standard fee or salary for instructing, supervising or officiating in an organized youth sports program or recreation or playground activities shall not jeopardize amateur standards.

Only symbolic awards of no intrinsic value may be accepted by a student-athlete as a result of participation in school or non-school competition in a sport. A student may receive the following without violating this standard: unattached school letters or emblems, medals, ribbons, plaques, trophies, etc. A student shall not have accepted or competed for the following types of awards: services, cash, gift certificates, or merchandise items such as jackets, sweaters, equipment, jewelry, merchandise items such as jackets, sweaters, equipment, jewelry, blankets, balls, watches, etc., regardless of their value.

This standard shall not prevent a student from signing an agreement which binds him or her to play only for a particular team or an athletic letter-of-intent with a university or college.

Awards in the form of high school scholarships or concessions on tuition because of

athletic ability shall cause the student to become ineligible for future competition in all interscholastic sports.

AGE STANDARDS

A student shall not have reached the age of 19 prior to July 1 preceding the opening of school. If a student reaches the age of 19 on or following July 1, the student may be considered eligible for that year.

To be eligible for junior high school competition against teams all in a particular grade classification, the student shall not have reached the following ages prior to July 1 preceding the opening of school: Grade Seven--14, Grade Eight--15. If a student does not meet the age standard for a particular grade classification, that student may compete on a team of a higher grade classification. Seventh and eighth grade students shall not compete with or against students in grade 10 or above except in cases where they attain the age of 15 prior to July 1 preceding the opening of school and their school does not sponsor a separate ninth grade team in the sport concerned, or where they attain the age of 16 years prior to July 1 preceding the opening of school.

FALSE NAME

If you compete under an assumed or false name, you immediately become ineligible.

GRADUATED STUDENTS

You will be ineligible to participate after graduation from senior high school. Students granted an early release following their junior year are ineligible for further participation. You are eligible to participate in state-level events beyond the high school graduation at the end of spring semester of your senior year.

NON-SCHOOL COMPETITION

During the sport season a student represents his or her school by competing in a interscholastic athletic contest, he or she shall neither practice nor compete as a member of a non-school team or as an individual participant in organized non-school competition in other sports in which MSHSAA member schools compete interscholastically 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 and the student shall not practice for or compete in the non-school competition on the same date he or she practices or competes for the school.

TRANSFER OF ENROLLMENT STANDARDS

The following standards are for the purpose of assuring fairness to all students.

Students who transfer for reasons other than promotion are ineligible for 365 days unless their cases meet the standards under the following exceptions.

If there is a corresponding change of residence of parents or guardian from the district where a student has been in attendance to the new district, the student will be eligible. A transfer of residence during the school year for the primary purpose of making an athlete eligible shall not be accepted. Guardianship shall be recognized under this standard only if neither parent is living, or legally competent. A guardian appointed for the primary purpose of making an athlete eligible shall not meet this standard. A change of residence under this rule shall consist of the moving of all household properties to the new address and the parents and students actually living there; a second family residence shall not meet the requirements of this standard.

The Board of Control of the MSHSAA may grant a student eligibility who does not meet the Transfer Standards when sufficient evidence is provided to show that it was necessary for the student to transfer because of unforeseen, unavoidable, or unusual circumstances; including, but not limited to, broken home conditions, death of parents or guardian, and abandonment and provided the transfer was not for athletic reasons and there was no undue influence.

A student must be eligible in all respects at the school from which he or she is transferring to be eligible at the school to which he or she is transferring.

Even though a student transfers schools under circumstances which do not meet the terms of the Transfer of Enrollment Standards, he or she still may be granted eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics as hereinafter restricted if the student qualifies under the following terms and conditions: A student whose name has been included on a school eligibility roster at any level for a given sport during the 12 calendar months preceding the date of such transfer can be eligible only for sub-varsity competition in that sport. A student may have unrestricted eligibility in all other sports in which his or her name has not appeared on a school eligibility roster. Eligibility can be granted provided the athlete is approved by the principals of both the sending and receiving schools and the Board of Control and further provided there is no athletic purpose involved in the transfer (approval must be granted on the special MSHSAA form provided).

SPORTS CAMP ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

A student may participate in a specialized camp, clinic, or other similar program involving coaching and instruction in a sport provided the program and the student's participation meet the following requirements:

1. The student may not attend a specialized sports camp during the school year.
2. No camp involving a fall sport shall be attended after July 31.
3. A student may not attend a camp or camps (combination of school and non-school) in any one sport for longer than two calendar weeks in any one calendar year where he or she received instruction or coaching from a member of the coaching staff of the school the student attends.
4. There is no restriction on the number of specialized sports camps an individual athlete may attend during the summer (when school is not in session) provided all of the guidelines in this section are met.

COLLEGE TRY-OUTS

No athlete shall participate in any type of try-out or audition for a college team prior to completion of his or her high school eligibility in the sport concerned.

LOCAL SCHOOL STANDARDS

Each individual school has the authority to set more restrictive citizenship standards and shall have the authority to judge its students under those standards.

Any member school shall have the authority to set any additional eligibility requirements which are more restrictive that it deems advisable.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The information contained within this handbook has been written or included with the best interests of the Marion County R-II Junior/Senior High School students in mind. Athletes and their parents should note that there are other rules and regulations in the MSHSAA Official Handbook that are not printed in this handbook. If you have questions concerning any rules, regulations, or procedures of the athletic program, please contact the coaches, athletic director, or school administrators.

MARION COUNTY R-II LETTERING GUIDELINES

Softball/Baseball: Play in 1/7 of the total innings played (regular season games).

Basketball: Play in 1/4 of the total quarters played (regular season games).

Track: Score at least 10 points during regular season or score at the district meet.

Cheerleading: (Only varsity cheerleaders), upon completion of one year of participation and providing that the participant follows the cheerleading guidelines. Lettering of the Mascot is at the discretion of the Coach

Band/Chorus: Instructor decision. Must attend school sponsored concerts to be eligible

Cross Country: Coaches decision.

Managers: Upon completion of the season and at the discretion of the Coach.

Having participated three out of four years in a varsity sport, a player will receive a varsity letter if not yet met the above qualifications.

If any athlete is injured and he/she would have qualified for a letter, a letter will then be awarded.

Provisional Letter: Be a member of the squad in good standing at the conclusion of the season, but just fall short of meeting the requirements for a varsity letter. If you earn a varsity letter next year in the same sport you will receive a second year varsity letter.

Junior High: Will receive certificates of participation.

***Records kept by the school will be the official records for determining the letter status of each participant. Participants must finish the season in good standing to receive their awards. The letter may be received only once.

Varsity Club Guidelines

Upon receiving a varsity letter the participant is now eligible to be a full member in Varsity Club. To maintain full membership in Varsity Club the participant must participate in the following years in the sport in which they originally lettered or letter in a new sport. Not meeting these guidelines will forfeit full membership. Full membership is required for participation in Homecoming Court etc. 7-12 students who participate in athletics, but do not earn a varsity letter can participate in Varsity Club as a probationary member. If the athlete is injured (with doctor's exemption) the guideline above would be used.

