

# Fort Mill District Middle School Athletic Policy

## Eligibility requirements:

1. Age- A student who turns 15 years of age prior to July 1, \_\_\_\_\_ will not be able to compete on an 8<sup>th</sup> grade and under team in any athletic activities during the \_\_\_\_\_ school year. However, the student can try out for high school teams.
2. The student must be promoted academically into the next grade
3. Any out of school suspension will result in dismissal from team.
4. Any **ISS** will result in the following
  - \*1<sup>st</sup> infraction – suspension from one game and practice leading up to the game that week.
  - \*2<sup>nd</sup> infraction –dismissal from team
  - \*School administration reserves right to alter punishment case by case
5. Consequences for any and all detentions are as follows
  - \*Any detention will result in additional running assigned by the coach
  - Frequent d-halls may result in the inability to start a game.
6. Any use of drugs, alcohol or tobacco will result in immediate dismissal from the team.
7. Each team member must attend practice. If it is necessary to miss practice of game, the coach must be notified by the player or parent.
8. Any player who misses more than a half day of school will not be allowed to participate in practice or a game that day.

## **Disclosure of Grades**

Our coaches do keep track their athlete's academic progress over the course of a season. The privilege of our coaches to do so is outlined in the following:

### **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

- Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies.
- Parents or eligible students have the right to request that a school correct records which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.
- Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34 CFR § 99.31):
  - School officials with legitimate educational interest;
  - Other schools to which a student is transferring;
  - Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
  - Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
  - Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
  - Accrediting organizations;
  - To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
  - Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
  - State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. However, schools must tell parents and eligible students about directory information and allow parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them. Schools must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA. The actual means of notification (special letter, inclusion in a PTA bulletin, student handbook, or newspaper article) is left to the discretion of each school. For additional information or technical assistance, you may call (202) 260-3887 (voice). Individuals who use TDD may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

For any questions or concerns please contact the following:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202-5920

### **Items Needed for Competitive Participation**

- Physical and parent permission form completed and signed.
- Original state approved birth certificate, copied and returned same day. Certificate must be from DHVS of the state of birth.

### **Transporting the Team**

- Due to liability and safety issues, we recommend that all sport participants travel to and from an athletic event on an activity bus.
- Under special circumstances, the parent may request (in writing) permission to transport their child home after the conclusion of the contest. This must be pre-approved by the coach. We will not release anyone except your child.

### **Extreme Heat/Cold**

- Trainers at the high schools will measure conditions with the on-site heat/humidity gauges.
- Trainers will inform Athletic Coordinator if scheduled activities should be altered due to conditions.
- Athletic Coordinator will consult with Principals who will make a determination or ruling of scheduled activity status.
- High School Athletic Directors will inform coaches, band directors, and middle schools of the ruling.

### **Lightning**

- Practice suspended under the following conditions
- Adhere to 30-30 second flash-to-bang rule
- Severe thunderstorm warning issued for area by National Weather Service
- Trainers will measure conditions with the lightning detectors to determine whether severe thunderstorm or lightning exists within 3 to 8 mile window.

### **Bus Behavior**

The Athletes must:

- Load and unload from the right front door.
- Keep arms, legs, and heads inside of the windows
- Never throw anything from the bus
- Walk, not run
- Stay seated while the bus is in motion
- Not obstruct the back window
- Refrain from eating or drinking while on the bus
- Participate in keeping the bus in a clean and orderly manner.

### **Picking up Athletes After a Game or Practice**

Please pick up your child immediately following practices and games. The coach will wait with your child up to 15 minutes beyond the conclusion of the event. In order to insure the safety of your child the coach will call FMPD to transport your child to Fort Mill Police Station to await your arrival. More than one occurrence may lead to the athlete's dismissal from the team. Please understand that your coaches have other obligations and your cooperation in this manner will be appreciated.

### **Equipment Responsibility Statement**

Fort Mill School District student/athletes are responsible for the proper care of all equipment and uniforms issued to them by their coach. In the event that the student/athlete should abuse or lose any part of their school issued equipment, the student/athlete will be responsible for replacing it before being allowed to participate on any other school athletic team. Also understand that the school may hold the report card until that debt is paid or equipment is returned.

### **Athletic Insurance**

The school pays for our athletes to be covered with insurance. The school insurance is not the primary coverage if you have your own insurance coverage. If your child is not covered, school insurance will be primary.

To make a claim:

1. Please notify the coach on an injury within 24 hours.
2. Have the coach fill out the necessary information on the claim form. You complete your part of the form. The coach will supply the form.
3. File a claim with your insurance company.
4. If your insurance company will not pay the total bill, you should mail this information to the school's insurance provider.
5. If you don't have coverage, you need to complete the form and mail it to the school's insurance provider.

### **Athletic Locker Room**

Only school issued uniforms and equipment are to be kept in locker room over night. Personal garments such as undershirts, socks, underwear will be **thrown away** if found by the coaching or custodial staff. This is in effort to prevent any spreading of staff infection in the case that a student may be infected and not know it. Staph or MRSA and its transmission is easily preventable with the appropriate steps taken. Please read the following carefully!

Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) is a type of infection caused by *Staph* bacteria that is resistant to some common antibiotics such as penicillin. *Staph* and MRSA are spread by close contact either through direct physical contact with an infected individual or by touching objects contaminated with the bacteria. In most cases, MRSA infections are mild and can be treated successfully with proper hygiene and the appropriate antibiotics.

The school athletic staff has a system that is aimed at the prevention of MRSA or other communal diseases. No athlete is allowed to house non-school issued clothing in their lockers (e.g., socks, shirts, shorts, or other personal items). The uniforms are washed weekly by staff with an enzyme-based detergent. The equipment, lockers, and locker room is sprayed 2 – 3 times a week with a disinfectant. The most important step that can be taken in the prevention of MRSA is to ensure that the athletes shower with soap immediately after each practice, game, or match.

The system that the school has in place is consistent with all Fort Mill schools. Our staff is aware of the seriousness of this situation and we are all working together to ensure that our athletes remain safe.

Useful Information:

How can I prevent *Staph* or MRSA skin infections?

Practice good hygiene:

1. Keep your hands clean by washing thoroughly with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
2. Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered with a bandage until healed.
3. Avoid contact with other people's wounds or bandages.
4. Avoid sharing personal items such as towels or razors.

For more information on MRSA and it's prevention, please go to this website:

[http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar\\_mrsa\\_ca\\_public.html#8](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_mrsa_ca_public.html#8)

## **Please sign and return to your coach as soon as possible**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ have read and understand all the rules and guidelines set before me in the Fort Mill School District athletic policy which includes eligibility requirements, disclosure of grades, items for competition, transporting the team, extreme heat/cold, lightning, bus behavior, pick up of athletes, insurance, equipment responsibility, and locker room. I also understand all of the consequences of my actions according to that policy.

\_\_\_\_\_ Student signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date