

# FORT MILL MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS

**REFUSE TO LOSE**

**OUR**



**Middle School Sports**

**2013-2014  
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**

## **STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

The athletic programs of the Fort Mill Middle Schools are an important part of the overall school curriculum. Students participate in a program that reflects the school's philosophy of diversity, continual growth, achievement, and the development of the individual's greatest potential toward an adult life in a democratic society. Lessons in sportsmanship, team work and competition are an integral part of each team in the athletic program. Athletics play an important part in the development of a healthy self-concept as well as a healthy body. Also, recognized is the importance of equal programs and equal opportunities for participation for both sexes. Athletic competition adds to school spirit. It seeks to develop heart, pride, and determination in the student-athletes at middle schools.

The athletic program is a part of the middle schools extra-curricular program. For it to be truly successful there must be professional communication and professional interaction between students, parents, and school personnel. To be a part of a team is a privilege, not a right. It is the charge of the athletic department philosophy, to each coach, that the relationship between coach, student/athlete, and parents be one of exemplary respect and trust. If this ceases to exist between a coach, a student-athlete, and parents, a conference will be requested to discuss possible termination of the relationship (Conference includes Athletic Director). Each coach is charged to seek high expectations and to stay the course.

The athletic program should always be in line with the objectives and regulations set forth by the South Carolina High School League, the Fort Mill School District #4 Board of Trustees, and Strategic Plan.

The Athletic Department will seek to foster and promote good sportsmanship and good sportsmanship conduct on the part of players, coaches, students, parents, fans, and the community of Fort Mill.

# **STUDENT/ATHLETES**

## **I. Personal Behavior**

1. All student/athletes will be expected to be aware of and follow the guidelines of conduct for all middle school students as listed in the Student/Parent Handbook.
2. We expect the behavior of our student/athletes to be better than that of the general population. If a player is suspended from school, this will count as an unexcused absence. If the suspension is for three days, this will be the same as three unexcused absences, and the student/athlete may be dismissed from the team, assessed game suspensions, assigned extra duties/conditioning and is required to attend a parent/coach/athletic director conference.
3. The use of tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, and illegal drugs is not acceptable for any student/athletes. Violation of school policy will result in school disciplinary action as stated in the Student/Parent Handbook. In addition, a conference with the coach and athletic director will be conducted to discuss further disciplinary actions which may include possible game suspensions, extra conditioning, dismissal from team and/or program, etc.
4. Student/Athletes are expected to represent their teams and this high school well throughout their time at this institution. Good citizenship is year long. Players whose offenses are covered under our student handbook will be dealt with as described in #'s 2 and 3. Those committing offenses away from school (weekends, breaks, summer, etc.) in non-school activities will face consequences as follows:
  - a. As per policy, felony charges will be handled as school matter, regardless of when or where they occur.
  - b. Non-felony drug or alcohol charges and/or any charges associated with the use of any form of social media (if a reasonably prudent person would believe the individual to be guilty after conducting an investigation) may result in immediate dismissal from any team this individual is currently an active member of (sport is in season at time of offense). This action in and of itself does not preclude the individual the opportunity to participate in other team sports later during the school year. A conference with the involved coaches and athletic director will be held to discuss if any further disciplinary actions are warranted. (Further actions may include dismissal from the school athletic program for the remainder of the year.)
5. Student/Athletes who quit a team will not be allowed to return to that team until the following year. Student/Athletes who quit a team may not start practice with another sport until the team he/she has quit has completed its season. The athletic director should be informed of any student/athlete who quits a team.
6. We expect our student/athletes to reflect excellence both on and off the field and courts. Disrespect of any kind towards coaches, opponents, or officials will not be tolerated. We insist that our student/athletes use common courtesies, such as, "Yes, Sir" and "No, Sir" when they address adults.

## **7. Code of Conduct (JICDA Board Policy)**

*The District's code of conduct and discipline is established to achieve and maintain order in the schools. In administrative rule JICDA-R, the board and the administration offer a list of offenses along with the required or recommended dispositions for the information of students, parents and school personnel.*

*Disciplinary actions will include appropriate hearings and review. The removal of a student from the learning environment will occur only for just cause and in accordance with due process of law.*

*The administrative rule is effective during the following times and in the following places:*

- *On the school grounds during and immediately before or immediately after school hours;*
- *On the school grounds at any other time when the school is being used by a school group;*
- *Off the school grounds at a school activity, function or event;*
- *En route to and from school on a school bus or other school vehicle or in a personal vehicle.*

*Students are required to conduct themselves at all times and places in a manner that will not be contrary to the best interest of the school. Conduct of the student in any manner, which materially disrupts class-work or involves substantial disorder or invasion of the rights of others (ex. Hazing – verbal or physical) is a basis for suspension or expulsion.*

**Student/athletes who are dismissed from the athletic program must show a change of attitude and behavior before they will be allowed to return to the athletic program.**

## **II. Practice**

1. All student/athletes are expected to be at all practices unless they are absent from school or go home because of illness. Student/athletes leaving school due to illness should personally inform their coach. Student/athletes will not be allowed to practice unless they are at school. (Student/athletes and coaches are reminded that 2 blocks of attendance are required for game/event day participation. Exceptions will be addressed by the athletic director and principal.)
2. Coaches and student/athletes should communicate and address any known conflicts that might arise during that sport's season. Family vacations, prior commitments, extracurricular conflicts, etc. should be promptly communicated. Commitment to the team as a member takes precedence.
3. All student/athletes will have two unexcused absences from practice. Following an unexcused absence, the student/athlete will be given extra conditioning following the practice at which he or she returns. Upon the third unexcused absence, the student/athlete may be dismissed from that team. Assessed game suspensions; assigned extra duties/conditioning and is required to attend a parent/coach/athletic director conference.

4. All student/athletes are expected to be on time for practice or any other activity where a predetermined time has been set. Student/athletes who are late will be assigned conditioning as deemed appropriate by the coach of that team. Chronic tardiness will be addressed by the coach and athletic director to determine the athlete's team membership status.
5. Injured student/athletes are expected to attend practice and/or seek rehabilitative treatment as specified by the athletic trainer.

### **III. DRESS CODE**

All student/athletes are expected to follow the dress code established by their coaches.

### **IV. COACHES OFFICES**

1. These facilities are to be used as work areas for coaches.
2. We must demand that students and athletes knock before entering an office.
3. These areas are to be kept clean, neat, and orderly. Each coach shares personal responsibility in helping to achieve this goal.
4. Any needed repairs should be reported to the athletic director.

### **V. EQUIPMENT**

1. All equipment issued should be free of defects.
2. Records are to be kept on all equipment that is issued.
3. Coaches must demand that student/athletes take proper care of the equipment that is issued to them. A lock and locker are required to provide the safety and security of each student/athletes possession.
4. At the end of each sport, the head coach of that sport will be responsible for giving the athletic director an inventory of all equipment and uniforms. This must be done within two weeks of the date of the last game. A basic needs list for the following season should be supplied at this time also.
5. Equipment and uniforms should be neatly stored in a designated area. The athletic director should be informed of the location of your designated storage area.
6. The athletic director will purchase equipment and uniforms for all sports. All requests for emergency equipment or items must be approved by the athletic director. Our district purchase order system must be followed without exception. All purchase orders need approval by the athletic director and principal. Each order must contain the proper purchase order number supplied by the director.

## **VI. LOCKER ROOM**

1. A Coach or coaches must be present in the locker room at all times to supervise players.
2. The only persons allowed in the locker room will be those team members who are presently using the facilities and coaches.
3. These locker rooms are to be used for the purpose of getting dressed for the sport(s) that are in session.
4. The locker rooms will be opened at the end of the last block.
5. The coach or coaches who are using these rooms will be responsible for making sure these rooms are kept neat and locked when practices/events are completed.