

Fleming County Schools

# WE ARE FC



Student-Athlete Handbook  
2022-2023

Our Vision is to become a District of Distinction  
211 West Water Street | Flemingsburg, KY 41041

Fleming County Schools  
**Student-Athlete Handbook**

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As required by law, the Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, genetic information or disability in its programs and activities and provides equal access to its facilities to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

Approved May 17, 2022

## Table of Contents

<b>Introduction:</b> Handbook Purpose, District Mission, Equity Statement	Page 4
Central Office Personnel	Page 5
Harassment/Discrimination	Page 6
<b>Athletic Program Overview:</b> Philosophy, Vision, Equity Statement, Rationale, Disclaimer	Page 7
<b>Athletic Program Overview:</b> KHSAA, Administration of the Athletic Program, Athletic Director, Required Forms, Examinations, and Meetings	Page 8
<b>Athletic Program Overview:</b> Student-Athlete Expectations, Athletic Participation	Page 9
<b>Athletic Program Overview:</b> Practices, Fitness and Weight Lifting, and School Attendance	Page 10
<b>Athletic Program Overview:</b> Drug Testing, Ejections, and Participation	Page 11
<b>Athletic Program Overview:</b> Tryouts, Transportation, Athlete/Parent/Guardian/Coach Communication, and FC Performance Academy (FCPA)	Page 12
<b>Athletic Program Overview:</b> COVID-19 and Off-Season Expectations	Page 13
<b>Fleming County High School Panthers Athlete Expectations:</b> Team Goals, Team Rules and Expectations, Attitude and Respect, Specific Student-Athlete Expectations during the Game	Page 14
<b>Fleming County High School Panthers Athlete Expectations:</b> General Student-Athlete Rules	Page 15
<b>Fleming County High School Panthers Athlete Expectations:</b> Attendance Expectations	Page 16
<b>Fleming County High School Panthers Athlete Expectations:</b> Travel Rules, Cell Phone Expectations	Page 17
<b>Fleming County High School Panthers Athlete Expectations:</b> Social Media Expectations for Athletes, Important Suggestions and Recommendations Regarding Social Networking Sites	Page 17
<b>Fleming County High School Panthers Athlete Expectations:</b> Rules Regarding Social Networking Sites	Page 19
<b>Fleming County High School Panthers Athlete Expectations:</b> Notes Regarding Playing Time, Summary	Page 20
<b>Policies:</b> Fleming County Board of Education Policies	Page 21
2022-2023 Student-Handbook Acknowledgement Form	Page 22
2022-2023 Parent/Guardian Consent to Perform Urinalysis for Drug Testing	Page 23
2022-2023 Parent/Guardian Contract for Athletics	Page 24

## **Introduction**

### **Handbook Purpose**

The purpose of the handbook is to acquaint you with general policies and procedures of the Fleming County Schools that govern and affect your responsibilities as an athlete.

Because this handbook is a general source of information, it is not intended to be, and should not be interpreted as, a contract. It is **not** an all-encompassing document and may not cover every possible situation or unusual circumstance. If a conflict exists between information in this handbook and Board policy or administrative procedures, the policies and procedures govern.

Some policies refer to specific forms that are available as part of the District's administrative procedures.

It is the athlete's responsibility to refer to the actual policies and/or administrative procedures for further information. Complete copies of those documents are available at the Central Office and in the Principal's office. Policies and procedures also are available online via the District's web site or through this Internet address: <http://policy.ksba.org/F03/>. Students who fail to comply with Board policies may be subject to disciplinary action. **01.5**

School council policies, which are also available from the Principal, may also apply in some instances. **02.4241**

This handbook is intended to be a tool to help implement local policies and procedures and guidelines established by the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA) and other sport-specific governing bodies in the administration of student-athletics. For more detailed information about the KHSAA and the bylaws referenced in this handbook, please visit the following website: [www.khsaa.org](http://www.khsaa.org)

### **District Mission**

The mission of Fleming County Schools is to unite with family and community to provide an equitable, high quality education that meets the needs of each student in a caring and safe learning environment, which will ensure that students become successful throughout life. Fleming County Schools...where kids are first and learning never ends.

**Equity Statement** All Fleming County Schools' students deserve the right to a free, safe, personalized, and equitable education without barriers and prejudice. All staff are responsible for creating the best learning environment, experiences, and opportunities that will lead to all students becoming college, career, and life ready.

<b>Personnel</b>	<b>Telephone/E-mail Area Code (606)</b>	<b>Fax Area Code (606)</b>
<b>Superintendent</b> Brian K. Creasman, Ed.D.	845-5851 <a href="mailto:Brian.creasman@fleming.kyschools.us">Brian.creasman@fleming.kyschools.us</a>	849-3158
<b>Assistant Superintendent – Accountability/CTE/Certified HR</b> Lesia Eldridge	845-5851 <a href="mailto:Lesia.eldridge@fleming.kyschools.us">Lesia.eldridge@fleming.kyschools.us</a>	849-3158
<b>Chief Academic Officer – Transformation and Innovation/Equity Officer/Title IX/FCPA</b> Michelle Hunt	845-5851 <a href="mailto:Michelle.hunt@fleming.kyschools.us">Michelle.hunt@fleming.kyschools.us</a>	849-3158
<b>Director of Pupil Personnel &amp; Transformation/Safe Schools Coordinator/HR Onboarding</b> Cameron Jackson	845-5851 <a href="mailto:Cameron.jackson@fleming.kyschools.us">Cameron.jackson@fleming.kyschools.us</a>	849-3158
<b>Director of Business and Finance/Classified HR</b> Andy Plank	845-5851 <a href="mailto:Andy.plank@fleming.kyschools.us">Andy.plank@fleming.kyschools.us</a>	849-3158
<b>Director of Special Education and Preschool</b> Tiffany Lane	845-5851 <a href="mailto:Tiffany.lane@fleming.kyschools.us">Tiffany.lane@fleming.kyschools.us</a>	849-3158
<b>Chief Information Officer (DTC)</b> Denise Brown	845-5851 <a href="mailto:Denise.brown@fleming.kyschools.us">Denise.brown@fleming.kyschools.us</a>	849-3158
<b>Director of Food &amp; Nutrition</b> Jan Anderson	845-5851 <a href="mailto:Jan.anderson@fleming.kyschools.us">Jan.anderson@fleming.kyschools.us</a>	849-3158
<b>Director of Facilities and Maintenance</b> Greg Dunaway	845-5851 <a href="mailto:Greg.dunaway@fleming.kyschools.us">Greg.dunaway@fleming.kyschools.us</a>	849-3158
<b>Director of Transportation</b> Kerri Moran	845-5851 <a href="mailto:Kerri.moran@fleming.kyschools.us">Kerri.moran@fleming.kyschools.us</a>	849-3158
<b>District-wide Athletic Director (Junior Pro, MS, &amp; HS)</b> Brian Teter	845-6601 <a href="mailto:Brian.teter@fleming.kyschools.us">Brian.teter@fleming.kyschools.us</a>	849-3158

**Harassment/Discrimination**

Fleming County Schools intend that employees and students have a safe and orderly work and learning environment. Therefore, the Board does not condone and will not tolerate harassment of or discrimination against employees, students, or visitors to the school or District, or any act prohibited by Board policy that disrupts the work place or the educational process and/or interferes with an employee’s job responsibilities or student learning.

Employees or students who believe that they, or any other employee, student, or a visitor to the school or District is being or has been subjected to harassment or discrimination shall bring the matter to the attention of the Principal/immediate supervisor or the District’s Title IX/Equity Coordinator as required by Board policy. The District will investigate any such concerns promptly and confidentially.

No employee or student will be subject to any form of reprisal or retaliation for having made a good-faith complaint under Board policy. For complete information concerning the District’s position prohibiting harassment/discrimination, assistance in reporting and responding to alleged incidents, and examples of prohibited behaviors, employees should refer to the District’s policies and related procedures. Complaints of harassment/discrimination, whether verbal or written, shall lead to a documented investigation and a written report. **03.162/03.262/09.42811**

The following have been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination under Title IX and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973:

Michelle Hunt      211 West Water Street, Flemingsburg, KY 41041 606-845-5851  
*Title IX Coordinator Name*      *Address*      *Telephone*

Tiffany Lane      211 West Water Street, Flemingsburg, KY 41041 606-845-5851  
*Section 504 Coordinator Name*      *Address*      *Telephone*

Michelle Hunt      211 West Water Street, Flemingsburg, KY 41041 606-845-5851  
*Equity Coordinator Name*      *Address*      *Telephone*

**Fleming County Schools**  
**2022-2023 Athletic Program Overview**

**I. PHILOSOPHY**

Fleming County Schools has the basic mission of educating and preparing your people for productive and satisfying roles in life. Appropriate preparation requires not only the teaching of skills, but also the development of positive attitudes, constructive habits and strong overall character. Interscholastic athletics play a very important role as the school district endeavors to accomplish these objectives. The Board of Education supports the concept of interscholastic athletics and is committed to providing the maximum support possible to this program in terms of sportsmanship, academic requirements, activities, facilities, equipment and competent staffing. When effectively executed, such a program will enable each student to develop his/her full potential as well as favorable habits and attitudes that prepare him/her for adult life in a democratic society.

**II. VISION**

The Vision of Fleming County Schools is to become a “District of Distinction.”

**III. EQUITY STATEMENT**

All Fleming County Schools’ students deserve the right to a free, safe, personalized, and equitable education without barriers and prejudice. All staff are responsible for creating the best learning environment, experiences, and opportunities that will lead to all students becoming college, career, and life ready.

**IV. RATIONALE**

In order to accomplish the philosophy set forth, it is necessary to develop and maintain a team spirit that is based on appropriate standards. Certain regulations are necessary to prevent disruption of team spirit that could distract from the values of competition and cooperation provided by athletics.

The Athletic Program at the middle and high school must reflect the values of the district’s vision to become a “District of Distinction.” It is imperative that each sport establish high expectations that are aligned to the district’s vision.

**V. DISCLAIMER**

Fleming County Schools is a self-reporting school district. All infractions must be reported to the Coach, Athletic Director, Superintendent and the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA). The Athletic Director has the responsibility to report all infractions in writing to the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA).

**VI. KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

The Fleming County High School Athletic Program follows all KHSAA policies and procedures. Please refer to the by-laws provided online at: [www.khsaa.org](http://www.khsaa.org)

**VII. ADMINISTRATION OF THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM:**

A comprehensive and quality interscholastic athletic program will be provided at the middle and high school. The principal is the official representative of the school and is directly responsible for the general attitude of the student body and the conduct of the athletic affairs by the athletic director and coach. The principal and athletic director, working together, with the principal serving as that chief athletic administrator, must develop an interscholastic program that is aligned with the mission, vision and goals of the school and district.

**VIII. ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

The primary responsibility of the Athletic Director is administration and supervision of the school's entire athletic program. The athletic director supervises all athletics at the secondary level to assure these programs function under the guidelines of the KHSAA and Fleming County Schools and that all policies/procedures are strictly followed.

**IX. REQUIRED FORMS, EXAMINATIONS & MEETINGS**

Each student seeking eligibility to participate in any school athletic or sport activity at the middle school level (no exceptions) must:

1. Pass an annual medical/physical examination as required by the Kentucky High School Athletic Association;
2. Submit to random drug testing as outlined by board policy; and
3. Attend, with a parent/guardian the annual pre-season student/parent meeting.



## **X. STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPECTATIONS**

- I will be a student first and commit to getting the best education I can. I understand that my academic progress determines my eligibility to participate in games and practices. I also understand that coaches can strengthen the academic requirements to participate in athletics.
- I will remember that participation in the athletic program in Fleming County Schools is a privilege and that I am expected to represent my school, coach and teammates with honor and respect at all times, both on and off the court or field.
- I will consistently exhibit good character and conduct myself as a positive role model.
- I will live and compete honorably. I will not cheat, steal, or engage in any other dishonest or unsportsmanlike conduct.
- I will be on time to practices and games.
- I will be a good sport; be gracious in victory and accepting of defeat with dignity; given fallen opponents help; compliment extraordinary performance, show sincere respect in pre- and post-game rituals.
- I will safeguard my health and not engage in illegal substance use, possession, or distribution. I know that the use, sale and/or possession of alcohol, tobacco, other drugs or drug paraphernalia, other than those prescribed to me by a licensed physician, are strictly prohibited.
- I will not engage in disrespectful conduct of any sort including profanity, obscene gestures, offensive remarks of sexual or racial nature, trash-talking, taunting, boastful celebrations or other actions that demean individuals or the sport.
- I will treat contest officials with respect and will not complain about or argue with official calls or decisions during or after an athletic event.
- I will demonstrate concern for others; never intentionally injure any player or engage in reckless behavior that might cause injury to me or to others.
- I will help promote the well-being of teammates by reporting any unhealthy or dangerous conduct to coaches, the athletic director, guidance counselor or school administration.
- I have read and understood the requirements of these expectations for student athletes. I understand that I am expected to perform according to these expectations at all times and that if I do not do so; there will be sanctions or penalties. These consequences include, but are not limited to, suspension from games, expulsion from the team, and loss of the privilege to be a student-athlete with any team associated with Fleming County Schools.

## **XI. ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION**

In participating as a secondary school athlete, it is understood that the student will accept all the responsibilities inherent in being an athlete. The decisions related to imposing disciplinary action are the responsibility of the coaching staff, Athletic

Director, and the Principal. The conduct of the athlete in school and in the community is an important part of the training program for athletes.

In order for student athletes to participate on any athletic team, the following conditions must be met. The parent/guardian must:

1. Attend the pre-season student/parent sessions.
2. Attest and sign that they and their child have read and understand the concussion protocols.
3. Turn in a completed athletic physical examination form to the school.
4. Accept responsibility for all school equipment issued him/her. It is understood that school equipment can be used only with the approval of the coach.
5. Realize that decisions relating to: abilities of athletes, assignments to positions, and actions that directly affect morale and performances are made by the coach in charge.
6. Demonstrate appropriate use and care of locker room facilities and adhere to specific building regulations both at home games/events and away.
7. Adhere to all district, school and KHSAA attendance requirements.
8. Understand and agree to their child being randomly tested for drugs as outlined in board policy.
9. Students must refrain from using any school athletic equipment or uniforms at any other time than during the regular sport season in which they are participating, unless approved by the Principal.
10. Any student that has a medical condition considered as life threatening and has medication for this condition is required to carry this medication at all times – with notification to the school's nurse.

**(a) PRACTICES**

All athletic practices are closed to the parents, guardians and the public. The coach, with permission from the Athletic Director and Principal, may open one to two practices per season for official athletic pictures.

**(b) FITNESS & WEIGHT LIFTING**

All high school athletes are expected to participate in some form of supervised strength and fitness training during the athletic season and also in the offseason. The purpose is to help students to build muscular foundations to prevent injury. Also, developing proper techniques to help each athlete to build strength and endurance if done correctly, can help the student-athlete develop an appreciation and encourage a life of exercise.

### (c) SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

The Student Attendance Policy applies to all student-athletes. Like all FCS students, student-athletes are expected to attend school. Student-athletes who are truant, defined by FC Board Policy 09.123, are ineligible to participate in any KHSAA sanctioned sport. Per [KRS 159.150](#) any student who has not reached his or her twenty-first (21st) birthday, who has been absent from school without a valid excuse for three (3) or more days or tardy without a valid excuse on three (3) or more days is truant.

### XII. DRUG TESTING

Beginning July 1, 2017, all athletes are subject to the Fleming County Schools drug testing policy (09.313/09.423). The Fleming County Schools Drug Testing Policies can be found in the Appendices or online at [flaming.kyschools.us](http://flaming.kyschools.us).

### XIII. EJECTIONS

A student who is ejected from a game shall be suspended for a minimum of two (2) consecutive games, including post season. (If the KHSAA bylaws dictate a longer suspension, then the KHSAA rules shall govern.) Subsequent ejections will be governed by KHSAA bylaws. **Coaches may impose further penalties due to possible violations of team, school, and district rules.**

**School administrators may impose further discipline for student-athletes who are ejected during athletic competition, including the last game of the season or during tournament play. Players may be suspended from school if the ejection warrants such discipline – fighting, assault, profanity, etc. Coaches are expected to handle player discipline first, however, school administrators may also get involved based on the reasons for the ejection. Player ejections are not consistent with the athletic culture Fleming County Schools is committed to creating within the K-12 athletic program. All discipline must be consistent with the student discipline code.**

### XIV. PARTICIPATION

It is the goal of this athletic program to offer the opportunity of participation to every student who has the ability and desire to do so. However, no student is obligated to take part in athletics, nor is participation in athletics required. It is also to be stressed that participation in Fleming County Schools' athletic program is a privilege, not a right. Since it is a privilege, the coaching staff, in accordance with the Fleming County Schools' policy and due process procedures, has the authority to suspend or revoke the privilege when the rules and standards of this athletic program are not followed.

## **XV. TRYOUTS**

There may be times when it will be necessary to have tryouts for teams and cuts may be made. Tryout decisions are final and made by the head coach and his/her staff. **Students with physical disabilities must be provided necessary accommodations.**

## **XVI. TRANSPORTATION**

Transportation to all athletic events is provided by Fleming County Schools. Athletes are expected to ride the bus to and from athletic events. Athletes must ride with the team to their activity to participate. If there is a change in riding do to unique circumstances, permission must be obtained from the coach. A written request to ride home with a parent/guardian, must be given to the coach and athletic director at least 24 hours before the activity, due to liability issues. The written request must be kept on file.

## **XVII. ATHLETE/PARENT/GUARDIAN/COACH COMMUNICATION**

Fleming County Schools encourages open communication among athletes, parents, guardians, and coaches. Both athletes and parents/guardians are urged to discuss their concerns with the coach in the appropriate setting and at the appropriate time.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with the coach include issues of mental and physical well-being, strategies for improving individual performance, and issues of behavior. Issues *not* appropriate for a parent/guardian to discuss with the coaches include playing time, starting positions, team strategy, play calling, and other student-athletes.

## **XVIII. FLEMING COUNTY PERFORMANCE ACADEMY**

**All high school/middle school students who are enrolled in FCPA and participate in KHSAA sanctioned sports, must be on campus at least a portion of each school day to remain eligible for athletics.**

- **A student may request a waiver from the attendance requirement from the FCPA Admissions Committee if the student has had remote learning or virtual learning success in the past, validated by subject/course grades, testing data, and login data.**
- **Students activity and login success rate requires activity being calculated twice each day - morning and afternoon.**
- **Grade certifications will occur weekly:**
  - ✦ **Grade verifications must be completed and submitted to each coach, before a student is eligible to participate in practice or athletic events.**
  - ✦ **Student-athletes who get behind *must* participate in on-campus intervention until grades return to passing and activity rates meet expectations.**
  - ✦ **Students who do not login daily and consistently, no matter the student's letter grade, will be returned to in-person classes.**
  - ✦ **Students are required to be ahead of pace or login daily to be eligible to participate.**

**XIX. COVID-19**

All student-athletes must follow all COVID-19 protocols outlined by the KHSAA, Fleming County High School, and Fleming County Schools. COVID-19 protocols have been implemented to keep students and staff safe.

**XX. OFF-SEASON EXPECTATIONS**

**All student-athletes are expected to develop their athletic skills. Student-athletes in grades 7-12 grades are expected to participate in weight-lifting and conditioning throughout the off-season, through coach organized or individual sessions. Furthermore, the expectation is for student-athletes, who do not participate in other sports throughout the school year, to be developing their specific athletic skills.**

## **Fleming County High School Panthers Athlete Expectations**

Student-athletes at Fleming County High School are dedicated, disciplined, competitive, hardworking student athletes. Team members have a confident, respectful attitude and conduct themselves with class at all times.

**Team Goals:** All teams at Fleming County High School have a long-term goal of winning a KHSAA State title. Short-term goals must be met as well, including winning both the district and regional titles. In order to achieve these goals, our players must train and play at the highest levels during the season, as well as the off-season.

**Team Rules and Expectations:** All student-athletes who participate in a school/district/KHSAA sanctioned athletic program are expected to represent the Fleming County School District in a positive manner. It is a privilege to take part in any extracurricular activity and as with any privilege, proper guidelines must be followed. In addition to the school code of conduct, players will be expected to abide by the rules outlined in this document.

### **Attitude and Respect**

1. Exhibit a positive attitude at all times and encourage teammates in a positive manner.
2. Treat others as you would like to be treated. Bullying, harassing and hazing teammates will not be tolerated.
3. Negative talk about teammates in or out of the athletic environment will not be tolerated and will result in loss of playing time or removal from team!
4. Give 110% at all times during training, practice and competitions.
5. Players will be held responsible for their own actions.
6. Every player is equally important regardless of playing time, grade, position, etc.
7. Show respect to coaches, teammates, competitors, parents, officials and yourself.
8. Being coachable and open to constructive feedback.
9. Respect all coaching decisions on and off the field.
10. All members of the coaching staff are in charge. Back talking will not be tolerated.
11. Playing with dignity and grace, regardless of winning or losing
12. Supporting other sports and under-level teams.
13. Accepting responsibility as a role model for others.
14. Exhibiting pride in their team and school.
15. Practicing self-discipline.

### **Specific Student-Athlete Expectations during the Game:**

Student-athletes are prohibited from engaging in the following behavior at any sporting event as a participant or as a fan:

- Fighting opponents, fans, or officials.
- Taunting coaches of opposing teams.

- Taunting opponents or officials.
- Celebrating inappropriately with the intent to demean opponents.
- Showing disrespectful attitude toward opponents or officials.
- Inciting crowd hostility toward opponents in an unsportsmanlike manner.
- Using profane and vulgar language.

### **General Student-Athlete Rules**

1. Student athletes are students first. Athletes must maintain grades within Fleming County School's district policy and Fleming County High School's grading policy in order to remain eligible to play.
2. All student athletes must have a current KHSAA sports physical form on file at the school and with the coach.
3. As stated in the Fleming County High School Athletic Policy - Players must be in school all day or have an excused absence by the principal to participate in practice or games. Players suspended from school shall not participate in practice or games.
4. As stated in the school code of conduct - No pupil shall possess, use, or be under the influence of alcohol, drugs, look-alike drugs, or mood-altering substances on or off school property.
5. Always be on time! This means to be dressed and ready to go at the time the practice or competition is scheduled to begin (wearing appropriate practice gear). Players are expected to be to home games 1 hour prior to start time. If unforeseen circumstances cause a player to be late, that player is responsible for contacting the head coach BEFORE the practice or competition begins. The message should not be relayed through another player, coach or trainer.
6. Pay Attention. No talking while a coach is talking.
7. Disruptions during practice and competitions will not be tolerated. Players must understand there are times for laughter and times to be serious.
8. Leave disagreements and personal problems outside of practice and games.
9. No player should be using electronic devices during practice or competitions, even during water breaks.
10. Players will ensure all equipment is properly collected and stored at the end of each practice and/or competition.
11. If a player experiences a short-term injury they will still be expected to attend practices and competitions unless a doctor or physical therapy appointment conflicts. If a player experiences a season ending injury they may still attend practices and games if they wish, but it will not be required.
12. If any player has a question or issue they would like to discuss with the coaching staff, they may do so at any time. However, playing time will not be discussed directly following a game.
13. Student athletes represent Fleming County Schools! Any behavior on or off the field deemed unacceptable by the **school's administration** or coaching staff will be considered grounds for disciplinary action and possible dismissal from the team!

**Students who are dismissed from teams may appeal to the school's athletic committee for reinstatement. The decision of the athletic student-conduct committee is final and may not be appealed to the board of education, per statute KRS 158.150. The superintendent will determine the members of the athletic student-conduct committee.**

**Points to keep in mind:**

- a. Students who are suspended from the team for a misdemeanor or felony may not appeal to the school's athletic committee for reinstatement.**
- b. Students who commit a misdemeanor under Kentucky or federal law, or is adjudicated delinquent for an offense that would be a misdemeanor if committed by an adult, on or off the field must serve a suspension of 30 calendar days. Students may not practice or be part of any team activities, including serving as a manager, statistician, or camera person, etc.**
- c. Students who commit a felony under Kentucky or federal law, or is adjudicated delinquent for an offense that would be a felony if committed by an adult, on or off the field must serve a suspension of 60 calendar days. Students may not practice or be part of any team activities, including serving as a manager, statistician, or camera person, etc.**
- d. Per statute KRS 158.150, the Board of Education students cannot appeal team or school disciplinary rules, as boards can only address student expulsions from school.**

**Attendance Expectations**

1. Practice and game attendance is mandatory.
2. If a player must miss a game or practice for any reason, a call to the head coach is required BEFORE the practice or game in order for the absence to be considered excused. A voicemail should be left if the head coach does not answer.
3. Unexcused practice or game absences will not be tolerated.
4. If an emergency situation prevents a player from attending a game or practice, players must notify the head coach as soon as possible.
5. If any player misses a pregame practice and the absence is unexcused, the player will not dress for that game. There is no reason besides an emergency situation that an unexcused absence should occur.
6. If a player misses a game or practice for any reason (excused or unexcused) the player may be required to participate in extra conditioning and/or training. This is not for punishment; it is to make up the missed conditioning and/or training.
7. Please refer to Board Policy 09.123 for 2022-2023 specific attendance requirements.



## **Travel Rules**

1. Be on time for the bus.
2. Players must ride the bus to all away games. Players may leave after the game with a parent or guardian and only after they have signed the checkout sheet. ONLY a parent or guardian can sign a player out, this is school policy – no exceptions. There may be certain games where all players are required to ride back on the bus as a team – this will be at the coach’s discretion.
3. On the way to an athletic event all players are expected to be focusing on the game. There should be no cell-phone usage.
4. On the way back to school from an athletic event, players must exhibit class, reserve and be reflective about the game. Each coach will set return travel expectations. There should be no cell-phone usage.
5. Players are responsible for their own personal equipment.
6. Players will follow the bus rules posted.
7. Players are expected to be on their best behavior at restaurants, hotels, and opposing fields. Always clean up after yourself.
8. Players are responsible for disposing of all trash and collecting all personal/team equipment from the bus once arriving back at school.
9. All Varsity players must stay for Junior Varsity games and all Junior Varsity players must stay for Varsity games, when the teams travel together, unless otherwise confirmed with the coach.

## **Cell Phone Expectations**

Cell phones are a distraction to game day preparations, team culture and the learning process (yes, athletics is an extension of the classroom). Student athletes **must** be fully engaged with their team and coaches for the entirety of team athletic events, including pre-game preparations and post-game travel. At no time should pictures or videos be taken of teammates or shared with others. Coaches will regulate cell phones in order to prevent distractions. Cell phones will be allowed only for use when contacting parents/guardians after an athletic event to coordinate pick-up times or for medical purposes. Cell phone regulation may be accomplished in one of two ways: 1) the Coach may collect cell phones from athletes. The coach will return the phones at least 30 minutes from arriving back at school so that student-athletes can make pick-up arrangements. 2) Give athletes a set time for all cell phones to be silenced, placed on airplane mode, **and** put away. Phones will not be used while traveling to the game, prior to the game, or traveling back to school. If the athlete cannot follow this guideline, the coach may collect the cell phone and return it at least 30 minutes from arriving back at school so that the student athlete can make pick-up arrangements. Failure to comply with this policy may result in team discipline, such as game suspensions, or dismissal from the team.

## **Social Media Expectations for Athletes**

Student-athletes are high-profile representatives of the Fleming County School District, and their behavior is subject to scrutiny by their peers, the campus, community, and the media. The

actions of a single student-athlete can reflect positively or negatively not only on the individual student-athlete, but also on his or her team and coaches, the Athletics Department and the entire school campus. Therefore, student-athletes are expected to represent themselves and FCS with honor, dignity and integrity at all times – including when interacting on social networking websites and in other online environments. The popularity of social networking websites (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Vine, YouTube, Instagram, Snapchat, Blogspot, etc.) has grown tremendously during the last few years. These websites can serve as valuable communication tools when used appropriately. The use of social media, however, has the potential to cause problems for both the student-athlete and the school environment. Almost anything a student athlete posts on a social networking site may be viewed by others, and both the media and the general public are more likely to view the profiles of student-athletes than the profiles of other students.

The Athletics Department has developed this Student-Athlete Social Networking Guideline in order to:

- (i) Provide recommendations and suggestions for student-athletes to help them use social media in a safe and responsible manner
- (ii) Outline important rules that student-athletes must follow when using social media

### **Important Suggestions & Recommendations Regarding Social Networking Sites**

Some students mistakenly believe social networking websites have a veil of privacy about them and assume their profiles are viewed only by a close circle of friends and fellow students. To the contrary, the content on most of these sites is accessible by anyone in the general public unless security and privacy features are used. The public nature of these websites has created personal safety and personal welfare concerns. For example, student-athletes have been stalked or sexually harassed and assaulted as a result of their Facebook profiles. Fans of opposing teams have taunted student-athletes based on information obtained from social networking sites.

Student-athletes also should be aware that potential employers and graduate school admissions officers now regularly screen applicants by conducting “Google” searches of an applicant’s name and by reviewing the applicant’s social networking profiles. Students are being passed over for interviews and denied admission to universities based on the content of their profiles.

Student-athletes should be very careful about what personal information they share on the internet. For their own security, protection and welfare and that of their teammates and friends, the Athletics Department strongly recommends and advises student-athletes to:

- Keep phone numbers, physical addresses, birthdates, current whereabouts, travel plans and other personal information strictly confidential. This information should not be contained in a student-athlete’s personal online profile.
- Limit the access of others to e-mail addresses and screen carefully those whom a student athlete may accept as “friends” on a social networking site.

- Use whatever security and privacy features are available to restrict the ability of others to view a student-athlete's site or to post pictures, messages and other content on a student athlete's site.
- If an individual contacts a student-athlete via a social networking site and the nature of the contact makes the student-athlete concerned for his or her safety or uncomfortable in any way, the student-athlete should immediately contact a parent, a coach, or a campus administrator.

### **Rules Regarding Social Networking Sites**

Participation in FCS Athletics is a privilege and not a right. As a condition of being a student athlete in FCS, student-athletes must abide by the following rules related to the use of the internet and social networking sites:

1. Any postings or communications via social networking websites which disrupt either the educational or athletic environments or which advocates the violation of any school or team policy would be unacceptable.
2. Student-athletes may not post online any pictures, information or other content that might cause embarrassment to themselves, fellow student-athletes, teams, coaches, the Athletics Department or the campus (examples: obscene images or language, nudity, pictures at parties with alcohol, references to drugs, sex, or illegal activities).
3. Student-athletes may not post any content online that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening toward any other individual, teammate, coach, faculty member, or entity (examples: derogatory comments regarding another school; taunting comments aimed at a student-athlete, coach or team at another school). No posts should depict or encourage unacceptable or illegal activities (examples: hazing, sexual harassment/assault, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, underage drinking, and illegal drug use).
4. Student-athletes may not post any content online that would constitute a violation of the FCS Student Code of Conduct.
5. Student-athletes may not post any information that is sensitive or personal in nature or is proprietary to the Athletic Department or the school which is not public information (examples: tentative or future team schedules, student-athlete injuries and eligibility status, travel plans/itineraries or information).
6. Student-athletes are required to abide by all laws related to the use of the internet (including state and federal privacy laws such as FERPA and HIPPA), and student athletes are personally liable for any violations of those laws.

Student-athletes in FCS are required to abide by rules set forth in these guidelines.

The failure to do so will be considered a violation of the student-athlete code of conduct and/or the FCS student code of conduct. The violation may result in disciplinary action by the athletics department and the campus administration.

## **Notes Regarding Playing Time**

Coaches reward all players who work hard at practice with playing time. However, the first athletic priority of the high school athletics is to instill character and sportsmanship in student athletes, followed by the priority of winning. Playing time at the varsity level is not guaranteed. Coaches have been directed not to discuss playing time during or immediately following games.

## **Summary**

Players who choose not to abide by the aforementioned rules will be subject to corrective action. While many rules are listed, it is nearly impossible to identify every situation that may occur. Other situations will be addressed as they arise and consequences may be implemented at the coach's discretion. Please make sure that you are familiar with school and district policy as it pertains to extracurricular activities and athletics. Many (not all) of the policies are included in the Appendices of this handbook.

Questions pertaining to rules, policies or protocols provided in this handbook should be directed to the Athletic Director at Fleming County High School.

## **POLICIES**

Fleming County Board of Education Policies pertaining to student-athletes or athletics in general.

09.131 Educational Equity

05.48 Weapons

02.4241 School Council Policies (SBDM)

09.123 Absences and Excuses

09.126 Students of Military Families

09.13 Equal Educational Opportunities

09.227 Child Abuse

09.3 Student Activities

09.31 Athletics and Sport Activities

09.311 Safety (Athletics)

09.312 Insurance (Athletics)

09.313 Athletic Eligibility/Substance Abuse Policy

09.422 Bullying/Hazing

09.423 Use of Alcohol, Drugs and Other Prohibited Substances

09.426 Disrupting the Educational Process (Students)

09.434 Suspension (Students)

09.4341 Alternative Education

09.438 Student Discipline Code

Sign and return this portion to the head coach. The signed copy must remain on file with the Athletic Director and must be signed before the student may tryout or practice.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby agree to the above rules and standards of behavior. I acknowledge the receipt of the 2022-2023 Fleming County Schools Student-Athlete Handbook, Team Rules and Expectations and agree to uphold all expectations addressed throughout the handbook. I understand if I do not follow the rules, I may be subject to disciplinary actions including, but not limited to, extra conditioning, game suspension, or dismissal from the team.

Player's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Sign and return this portion to the head coach. The signed copy must remain on file with the Athletic Director and must be signed before the student may tryout or practice.

**Parent/Guardian Consent to Perform Urinalysis for Drug Testing**

- † I hereby consent to have my son/daughter, undergo urinalysis testing for the presence of drugs in accordance with the Board of Education’s Athletic Eligibility Policy, 09.313.
- † I understand that this testing will occur according to the guidelines of the drug-testing program.
- † I understand that the urine samples will be sent only to a licensed medical laboratory for actual testing, and that the samples will be coded to provide confidentiality.
- † I hereby give my consent to the medical laboratory selected by the Board of Education, its doctors, employees, or agents, to release all results of these tests to the District Superintendent or his/her designee and to a qualified Medical Review Officer to conduct a review as provided in policy. I understand that those results will also be made available to me.
- † I understand that consent pursuant to this Consent Form will be effective for all athletic sports in which my son/daughter might participate during the current school year.
- † I hereby release the Board of Education and the District’s schools, their agents, and employees from any legal responsibility or liability for the release of such information and records as authorized by this form.

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*Student Name (Please print)*

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*Student Address (Street)*

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*City, State, ZIP Code*

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*Date*

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*Parent/Legal Guardian’s Signature*

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*Parent/Legal Guardian’s Signature*

## Fleming County Schools – 2022-2023 Parent/Guardian Contract for Athletics

### Parent Responsibilities:

- **Realize your importance to the team.** Parents are an important part of the success of a team. Understand that your child and the coach will need your support throughout the season.
- **Understand what will and will not be discussed.** Coaches will not discuss playing time with parents or guardians. The coaches are free to discuss other components of the team or sport.
- **Encourage good sportsmanship.** Parents/guardians of our student-athletes are also representatives of our school. So, please set a good example for your child by demonstrating the highest standards of sportsmanship at all times. Criticizing of the officials, coaches, players, or opponents will not be tolerated. Realize that this is a youth sport and everyone will make mistakes, even the referees.
- **Actively participate in the game.** Watch, cheer, and support the efforts of all players on the court/field. Keep all comments positive and encouraging. Negative comments about any player, coach, official, or fan will not be tolerated.
- **Always allow the coach to coach.** Coaches are hired by the school and have the support of the school administration in their ability to teach the game to your child. Please do not coach from the stands as it only confuses the players on the court/field. Always support the coach when talking in front of your child or other players so as not to undermine the coaches' decisions. Remember that the coach is doing their best to provide a service to your child. It is understood that you may, at times, disagree with a coaching decision, but please refrain from discussing this in front of your child as it may strain the coach/player relationship.
- **Maintain a professional and respectful relationship with your child's coaches and follow the protocol to discuss concerns.** Players at this age should be able to discuss any issue with their coach first. Most of the time this will resolve any problem. However, if the problem still exists, the parent should contact the coach to set up a meeting to resolve the issue. Never approach the coach before, during, or after a game or practice to discuss a concern unless it is an immediate emergency to the team. If you are not satisfied with the outcome of your meeting, please contact the athletic director.
- **Make sure your child gets to all practices and games on time and is picked up on time.** Being at all practices and games is very important to the success of the team. If for some reason you are not able to transport your child on time, please make other arrangements for transportation for the benefit of the team. Our coaches all have other responsibilities they need to get to after practices and games, so please be diligent in being there within 10 minutes at the conclusion of practices or games. The coaches are never allowed to transport student-athletes in their personal vehicles at any time, for any reason. The coaches cannot leave until all players are picked up.
- **Make sure your child abides by the rules in the player contract.** Being part of an athletic team means putting the team ahead of any individual gain. Make sure your child understands and adheres to the player contract for the good of the team. Teach your child that life has rules and they need to follow them to be successful in whatever they do.
- **Take care of the school uniforms.** There will be a separate uniform contract that must be signed before a player can receive their uniform. Please be diligent in keeping the uniform clean and free of rips and tears.
- **Make sure your child abides by all COVID-19 protocols.** Due to the severity of COVID-19, all students will be required to follow all health and safety protocols designed to mitigate the spread of this very contagious virus. Protocols may change throughout the athletic season; however, students must follow the most up-to-date guidance such as wearing face coverings, sanitizing hands regularly, practicing social distancing, etc.

**The purpose of this contract is to ensure the student-athletes have a positive, safe learning/playing environment. Please sign below that you have read and understand the responsibilities of a parent of a student-athlete. This must be signed as a condition of your child's participation in interscholastic sports in Fleming County Schools. Failure to abide by the rules above could result in a suspension or ban from games and possible removal of your child from the team.**

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Student-athlete's name

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Parent/Guardian's Signature

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Date