

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK



Fayette Academy's Athletic Department believes that communication with student-athletes and parents is critical. This handbook includes guidelines which govern athletic participation at FA and also contains information about the TSSAA, its purpose and its rules. This should be used as a reference guide to provide information needed to answer questions about the athletic program, as it relates to students and parents. Therefore, if your questions are not answered, please email the athletic director or call the athletic office at (901) 466-5445

HOME OF THE VIKINGS!

Table of Contents

Philosophy

Goals and Objectives of the FA Interscholastic Program

Statement of Risk

Insurance

Athletic Department Information

Interscholastic Athletic Requirement

Expectations of the FA Athlete

Important Policies

- Absence from school
- Academic Eligibility
- Harassment, Hazing and Bullying
- Early Fall Practices
- Emergency procedures in case of an athletic injury
- Practices, contests, conflicts with class
- Team Captains
- Team Managers

Procedures for Trips

- Transportation
- Day Trips
- Overnight Trips

Sportsmanship and Behavior

- Good Sportsmanship Guidelines for students, parents and spectators
- Unacceptable Behavior

Student, Parent and Coach Communication

- What team members and parents should expect from the coach
- If an athlete has a concern
- Appropriate concerns for parents to discuss with coaches
- Issues which are inappropriate for parents to discuss with coaches
- When parents have a concern to discuss with a coach

Additional Information

- Athletic Department Structure
- NCAA Clearinghouse
- Junior Varsity Programs
- Varsity Programs

Interscholastic Athletic Offerings

- Upper School - Fall, Winter and Spring seasons
- Middle School - Fall, Winter and Spring seasons

TSSAA

Statement of Purpose and Intent

Fayette Academy Athletic Handbook

Philosophy

Athletics are a recognized part of the culture in which we live. Interscholastic athletics provides experiences not found in other segments of the educational program. Athletic programs at FA are an integral part of the total educational program, and as such, contribute to the stated objectives of the school - the promotion of integrity, honesty, respect, responsibility and excellence. More specifically, participation in interscholastic athletics promotes the development and maintenance of sound physical and mental health, desirable social and recreational needs, lasting personal relationships, and a positive self-image. In addition, athletics provide an avenue for common experiences to be shared by students, faculty, parents, board members, alumni, staff and friends, which helps build school loyalty and unity.

It is important to understand that participation on an athletic team at the Fayette Academy is a privilege and not a right. Being on and maintaining one's membership on the team means accepting all the responsibilities of an athlete. However, unlike recreation or intramural teams, equal or guaranteed playing time does not exist. In an effort to win, a coach will use players best suited to the conditions or demands of the contest at that time.

Goals and Objectives of the FA Interscholastic Program

FA teams and coaches will strive for excellence in performance but always (a) abide by established rules of play and conduct as established by the TSSAA and other entities having jurisdiction and (b) meet or exceed recognized standards of sportsmanship and fair play.

FA will encourage maximum participation in athletic programs by offering the widest feasible assortment of athletic team opportunities. However, we recognize that financial and competitive factors may mandate a "cut" policy, whereby the number of players per team is limited to levels determined by respective coaches.

Through an organized interscholastic athletic program, FA strives to:

- Develop each participant's knowledge and use of fundamental skills needed to participate in a chosen sport.
- Increase each participant's awareness and appreciation of all sports.
- Foster each student's moral, social and personal development.
- Encourage each athlete to extend himself/herself to perform at the best of his/her ability.
- Encourage all students to participate in the interscholastic athletic program, providing a place for everyone, whenever possible.
- Develop positive relations within and outside the school community in support of the athletic program.
- Develop a positive mental attitude and strong sense of self.
- Develop personal goals and a plan for reaching those goals.
- Strive for playing excellence and experience the value of team play and sportsmanship.
- Promote the ability to accept defeat graciously and victory modestly.

Statement of Risk

Participation in interscholastic athletics includes a risk of injury that may range from minor to long term catastrophic. Although serious injuries are not common in supervised athletic programs, it is impossible to eliminate this risk. Athletes must obey safety rules, report physical problems to their coaches, follow a proper conditioning program and inspect their equipment daily.

Insurance

Fayette Academy has purchased accident insurance for all students. The insurance plan provides benefits for accidental injury while attending assigned classes or during school sponsored and supervised activities. The TSSAA Catastrophic Insurance "kicks in" after the first \$10,000 of medical expenses.

Any athlete suffering an injury during any Fayette Academy athletic contest or practice should immediately report the injury to his/her coach. At the first opportunity following the injury, both the athlete and coach are required to report the injury to the Athletic Secretary. The coach will fill out an Accident Report Form and file it in the Athletic Director's Office. The Athletic Secretary will then provide the parent(s)/guardian(s) with a Claim Form to fill out and submit to the school's insurance provider. Failure to complete and submit this form by the parent(s)/guardian(s) may result in any subsequent claim being denied.

Athletic Department Information

Daily information concerning contest opponents, game times and information about cancellation of practices/games is available by calling the FA Athletic Department at (901) 466-5445 or go to fayetteacademy.com and look at the school calendar.

Expectations of the FA Athlete

Any student who is a member of a FA athletic team is expected to:

- Maintain a solid academic standing.
- Be committed to the team and coaches. Put team goals ahead of personal goals.
- Observe school rules and coaches' rules.
- Represent FA in a positive manner at all times. Have pride in yourself, your team, and your school. Be a role model for all students before, during and after school.
- Take care of locker rooms and school facilities.
- Relate well to teammates and coaches.
- Display good sportsmanship towards opponents, officials, teammates, and fans.
- Be on time and prepared for all games and practices.
- Respect officials and accept their decisions.
- Work harder than the competition. Learn from mistakes. Never give up!!!

Important Policies

Absence from school

Students must attend at least FOUR periods of their classes to be eligible to participate in a GAME or PRACTICE.

Exceptions: School matters, family matters, etc. All of which must be approved by the athletic director in advance.

Academic Eligibility

The primary purpose of FA as a college-preparatory institution is to promote academic achievement. Participation in an athletic program makes significant demands on a student's time.

All athletes at Fayette Academy are governed by a “NO PASS, NO Play” policy that supersedes and is more stringent than TSSAA guidelines. At the midpoint of each nine-week grading period (Progress Reports), the Athletic Director’s office will notify the student, his/her parent (s), and the coach if the student is in danger of becoming academically ineligible to participate in athletics. A student is considered to be in danger if he/she is failing two or more subjects. When notified, the student is placed on probation and will have two weeks to improve his/her grades to a 65 or higher. If at the end of the two week probation period the student is still failing two or more subjects, that student will be academically ineligible to participate in any sporting event until the end of the 9 weeks period. If the student is not academically eligible at the end of the nine-week period, the student shall remain ineligible until the next reporting period (Progress Report), at which time the student may regain his/her eligibility if the academic deficiency is corrected. If a student athlete has not been placed on academic probation during a 9 week grading period, but has 2 or more failing grades at the end of the 9 weeks, he/she will be placed on academic probation for the first two weeks of the following 9 week period. At the end of the 2 week probation period, if the student still has 2 or more failing grades, they will be ineligible until progress reports are issued. Athletic eligibility for the third quarter will be determined by the student’s first semester average.

Drug and Alcohol Policy

Fayette Academy’s drug testing policy requires that all students in grades 7 thru 12 be tested for drugs at least one time during each school year. In addition, all students in grades 7 thru 12 who participate in extracurricular activities such as athletics or band will be tested at least one additional time before beginning competition/participation with that activity. These tests shall be scheduled at the discretion of the administration and will not be announced to the students being tested until they are called to the test site the day of the test.

Fayette Academy students are subject to random searches of their personal property while on campus or at any school-sponsored activity at any time at the discretion of the administration. In addition, the administration may require that any student submit to an alcohol or drug test at any time that the student is in attendance at school or is attending any Fayette Academy activity. Students refusing to submit to any drug test, alcohol test, or search requested by the administration of Fayette Academy will be subject to disciplinary measures, and in the case of alcohol or drug testing, the student will be considered to be in violation of Fayette Academy’s Drug and Alcohol Policy.

Harassment, Hazing and Bullying

Students are expected to treat one another with respect; harassment of any kind is not acceptable. Likewise, students are not permitted to engage in any type of hazing behavior. Hazing is most often associated with initiation into an organization or team, and it can also involve older students forcing younger students to perform or act in ways that are belittling, endangering, or demeaning. Students at FA should never be coerced or pressured into any unwanted conduct. The use of sexually inappropriate

language that is demeaning and hurtful to others will not be tolerated. Uninvited sexual advances that are deliberate and/or repetitive are unacceptable.

Reports of any such inappropriate conduct should be made to the office of the School Counselor, Athletic Director, Middle or Head of School. Students (6th -12th), parents (all school), faculty, staff and others sharing suspicion or direct knowledge of these behaviors/concerns will be afforded confidential reporting status. Tennessee Law, Code 49-6-1018, prohibits retaliation or reprisal against a victim of or witness to a person with reliable information about an act of harassment, intimidation or bullying.

****Any situation where a student/athlete has been actively involved with Harassment, Hazing and or Bullying could lose the privilege or any further participation in the total athletic program or activities for a calendar year**** This is in addition to any punishment which might also be deemed necessary by our Head of School.

Early Fall Practices

Fall practices for both boys and girls teams are set by the TSSAA. The date for beginning a practice is usually on or about August 1st.

Emergency procedures in case of an athletic injury

- The coach will make every effort to contact the parents first.
- If the parents are unavailable, an attempt will be made to contact the doctor listed on the emergency release form.
- If the doctor is unavailable, the coach will take the athlete to the emergency room of a local hospital, if, in the mind of the coach, that athlete can or should be moved. If the condition of the athlete is in question, the coach will contact the emergency medical service (EMS) with the local police department.

Practices, contests, conflicts with class

Practices, during the fall and spring seasons in general, begin at 3:15 p.m. and end at 5:30 p.m. Winter sport practice times vary due to the extremely heavy demand for the use of the indoor facilities by middle and upper school teams.

- ***Practice:*** Team practices start after classes each day. Therefore, no student should miss class for athletic team practices.
- ***Home contests:*** MOST home contests are scheduled at times so that students avoid missing academic classes.
- ***Away Contests:*** The Athletic Department attempts to schedule contests as late as possible to avoid having students leave campus prior to the end of the school day. Transportation is scheduled to MINIMIZE the loss of class time. When it is necessary to leave school before the end of classes, students are excused from classes by the coach or athletic director. Students should contact their teachers in advance of the day(s) they will be excused early.

Team Captains

Captains are elected by the players upon approval of the coaches. The coaches have the right to appoint captains if they feel it is necessary.

Captains should have the following qualities:

- Respect of peers
- Positive leadership traits on and off the field
- Strong organizational skills
- Contribute to good working relationships among players and coaches by keeping the lines of communication open.

Team Managers

The manager is a VITAL member of a team and should have the RESPECT of the entire team and coaching staff. The effectiveness of the practices and games depends upon his/her ability to carry out specific duties, such as, but not limited to:

- Being responsible for equipment for daily practices and games
- Assisting coaches in ways specified by the coaches
- Being involved in practices, helping out in drills, and participating in any other way which assists the team

Procedures for Trips

Transportation

All athletes are expected to be transported by FA to and from school sponsored activities. Any student who wants to travel via private transportation MUST have prior permission from the coach and the athletic director. Students may leave directly from an athletic event with their own parent(s) who should notify the coach. A student may leave with another student's parents only if this has been cleared in advance by the Athletic Department.

Day Trips

- Unless other plans have been approved by the athletic director, all players must ride on school transportation driven by a coach, teacher, or school bus driver. Should a breakdown occur, the driver will go for help. The coach and players will remain on the bus. Should the driver be the coach, he/she will remain on the bus with the players. All drivers should have a cell phone.
- All buses and /or vans must be cleaned up by players and checked by coaches upon return to FA.
- Players should be made aware in advance of the estimated time of return in order to inform their parents.
- Coaches will remain with all players until their transportation arrives.
- If a player/cheerleader misses a bus and he/she is unexcused, that player/cheerleader will NOT be allowed to play or cheer at that game.
- School rules are in effect at all times.

Overnight Trips

- If a team plans to stay in a motel or hotel, all players will be given the name and phone number of the motel/hotel, so they may inform their parents.
- Players may NOT leave the premises without the coach.
- No SWIMMING will be allowed without the permission of the coach.
- Everyone must be in his/her own room by 10:30 p.m., with lights out by 11:30 p.m.
- These guidelines may be adjusted at the discretion of the coach.

Sportsmanship and Behavior

FA's athletic program is an educational experience and there are important lessons in citizenship and sportsmanship to be learned in the process. Everyone has a role to play.

Good Sportsmanship Guidelines for Students, Parents and Spectators:

- Be a gracious host and show respect for our opponents.
- Exhibit a spirit and genuine concern for the opponents, especially for injured athletes.
- Respect the decision made by contest officials.
- Maintain self-control under all circumstances.
- Accept results gracefully and act fairly and courteously at all times.
- Encourage athletes to perform to the best of their abilities by positively supporting teams in every manner possible, including content of cheers. Discourage peers who demonstrate conduct that is inconsistent with the highest ideals of sportsmanship and citizenship.

BE A FAN, not a FANATIC. Be the BOOST, not the BOO in Booster!

Unacceptable Behavior

Any student/athlete whose actions/behavior are deemed inappropriate or requires police intervention will be subject to suspension or dismissal from a team.

Any student/athlete ejected from a game will automatically be suspended from the next scheduled game. This athlete may be subject to additional school, region or state suspensions.

The following behavior will not be tolerated:

- Profanity, disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs or gestures.
- Criticizing officials in any way
- Portable noise makers - such as horns, bull horns. Musical instruments are permitted, but must only be used when play is NOT in progress.

**WINNING IS FOR A DAY...
SPORTSMANSHIP and ETHICS are for a Lifetime!**

Student, Parent and Coach Communication

What team members and parents should expect from the coach

Coaches are expected to meet with team members and parents and provide information about the program. This meeting should take place early in the season.

The following information should be reviewed:

- Introduction of assistant coaches
- Coaching philosophy
- Practices and contest schedules
- Criteria used to select the team. (Team size, how cuts, if necessary are made, extent of tryout period.)
- Inclement weather plans
- How playing time is allocated
- Captain(s) selections, role
- Letter-awards - qualifications
- Team rules, commitment/expectations
- Travel policies
- Equipment - school and individual
- Athletic commitment - Tobacco, Drugs and Alcohol
- Early dismissals - conflicts with classes
- Athletic training services, injury prevention and care
- Communication with the coaching staff - Expectation of parents

If an athlete has a concern about playing time, team rules, etc., he/she should talk with the coach.

Appropriate concerns for parents to discuss with coaches:

- Treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
- Concerns about your child's behavior

Issues which are inappropriate for parents to discuss with coaches:

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other team members

When parents have a concern to discuss with a coach:

Please do NOT attempt to confront a coach before or after a practice or contest. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. A meeting at that time does not often lead to a satisfactory resolution.

- Call the coach to set up an appointment
- If the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution, please call the athletic director at 901.466.5448

Additional Information

Athletic Department Structure

Director of Athletics - Head Coach - JV Coach - Freshman Coach

The FA head coach of each sport is directly responsible for the total development of the program for his/her sport under the direction of the athletic director. Immediately prior to and after each season, they will assess the program. Meetings will be scheduled during the season as the need arises. Many things will be discussed at these meetings

such as team rules and regulations, expectations, goals, parent meetings, etc.

NCAA Clearinghouse

Students who are considering competing at the collegiate level at a Division I or II institution MUST register with the NCAA Clearinghouse in order to be eligible to compete. The form should be completed at the end of the junior year. Forms are available in the college counseling office.

Freshman and Junior Varsity (JV) Programs

Sub-varsity programs serve two purposes. The first is developmental. The experience serves as an environment in which a student can develop skills and strategies to compete at the varsity level in the future. The second is providing a successful and enjoyable experience for all members of the team. Freshman and junior varsity teams substitute a good deal, and although the outcome of the contest is important, the overall experience for all participants is paramount.

Varsity Programs

Coaches set standards for playing time, with the more accomplished athletes receiving more playing time. The overall experience is still paramount, but dedication to winning is a part of a varsity experience.

Interscholastic Athletic Offerings

Upper School

Fall Season

Boys Cross Country	Girls Cross Country	Cheerleading
Boys Football	Girls Golf	
Boys Golf	Girls Soccer	
	Girls Volleyball	

Winter Season

Boys Basketball	Girls Basketball	Cheerleading
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Spring Season

Boys Baseball	Girls Softball
Boys Soccer	Girls Tennis
Boys Tennis	

Fall Season

Volleyball
Football

Middle School

Golf
Cheerleading

Winter Season

Boys Basketball

Girls Basketball

Cheerleading

Spring Season

Baseball
Softball

TSSAA - Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association

Fayette Academy is a member of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) and is governed by the constitution and by-laws of the association. A copy of the TSSAA Handbook is available in the Athletic Director's office and a complete set of rules and regulations may be found on their website, www.tssaa.org. It is expected that each head coach and all assistant coaches will become knowledgeable of the by-laws that affect their sport