

MIDLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

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2023-2024 Athletic Handbook



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The Arkansas Activities Association is the governing body of all participating secondary schools in Arkansas. The governing body establishes rules, guidelines, and regulations for all sanctioned sports and activities.

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Mission Statement

Our mission is to offer students the unique opportunities for learning that arise through athletics and demonstrate through practical experiences that teamwork, dedication to goals, focused effort, and practice are pathways to success. We will strive to make our athletic program a haven for students to sample life's successes and failures through sports so that they may apply lessons learned to their lives.

Objectives

Objectives of the Athletic Department

- Keep the participation number at the highest level possible for the facilities available.
- Train athletes to become the best competitors on the field and the best gentlemen or ladies and citizens off the field.
- Instill good habits, sound morals, and a high standard of sportsmanship in the athletes.
- Further instill an appreciation for the optimum proper rest, good eating habits, and cleanliness.
- Emphasize to athletes at all levels of competition the realization that athletic competition is a privilege that carries definite responsibilities with it. These responsibilities include training, loyalty, eligibility, improvement, work, courage, and perseverance.
- Develop all programs so that the results will be unity, harmony, and success. Mass participation will be emphasized and encouraged below the high school varsity level.
- Instill the courage to face reality and to meet all problems with patience, independence, and self-reliance.
- Create in all athletes a greater interest in the value of education.
- Build, maintain, and conduct the most successful athletic program in the state.

The Midland School Board shall determine which athletic activities the Midland School District will compete in. This determination will be made only after the superintendent and the principal have made recommendations to the school board.

The actual administration and supervision of all athletic programs will be a function of the superintendent and the administrative staff. The following items will briefly outline what is expected of the athletes, athletic coaches, activities sponsor, and administrative personnel concerning specific areas of athletics.

This handbook was developed to familiarize coaches, athletes, and administrators with the policies and procedures of the Midland School District's Competitive Athletic Program. It sets forth in definite terms the procedures and policies in effect. It is an effective orientation for new as well as experienced staff members. It is a communication instrument for staff members, students, and patrons in general.

Coaches Code of Ethics

All coaches assume certain obligations and responsibilities to the game they coach, their players, their school, and their fellow coaches. It is essential that every member of the profession be constantly aware of these obligations and responsibilities with the purpose in mind that the coaching profession will always remain an honorable profession and that each member is to conduct himself/herself in such a manner as to maintain the dignity and decency of his/her profession.

Responsibility to Players

Parents trust their dearest possessions to the coaches' charge, and the boys and girls who have played under them are finer and more decent for having done so. The coaches should never place the value of victory above that of instilling the highest desirable ideals and character traits in their players. The safety and welfare of the players should always be uppermost in their minds, and they must never be sacrificed for any personal prestige or glory.

The coach's responsibility is to see that injured players are given prompt and competent medical attention and to see that the most detailed instructions of the doctor are carried out.

The coach must remember that they are a living example for all the students in the community they coach. Therefore, it is important to them and the profession that their actions and behavior always bring credit to the profession and to them.

The coaches' conduct during the game should be exemplary. For example:

- Rival coaches should meet and exchange friendly greetings.
- During the games, coaches should be as inconspicuous as possible.
- Coaches are encouraged to demonstrate a friendly and kind attitude toward their players.
- The attitude toward officials should be respectful.
- For safety reasons, only players/coaches are allowed on the field or court after the game.

Responsibility to the School

The coaches should remember that they are on constant public display as representatives of their school. It is important, therefore, that they conduct themselves in such a way as to maintain the principle of integrity and the dignity of their school. Coaches must adhere to the letter and the spirit of School policies regarding the athletic program.

The coaches should remember that other members of the faculty also have an interest in the school and the students, and their conduct must be such that no criticism arises concerning their efforts to develop the common interest and the purpose of their school. Coaches whose conduct reflects honesty and integrity will bring credit to the coaching profession.

Only through such conduct can the profession earn and maintain its rightful place in the educational program and make its full contribution to the school and the community.

The Coaches' Responsibilities to Their School

- Educating the pupils through participating in the activities under his direction.
- Support the administration in all policies, rules, and regulations, which from time to time must be enacted. Differences of opinion must be discussed behind closed doors and not aired publicly.
- A harmonious relationship must exist between coaches and the administrative office of athletics. The coaches should feel free to suggest and initiate any action related to the conduct or improvement of the athletic program. Controversial matters should be discussed on a friendly basis. Once final decisions have been reached, the coaches will accept and support them.
- Every coach should be thoroughly acquainted with the rules and regulations of the program. He or she should assume responsibility for their observance and enforcement. Anyone who disregards a rule is disobeying a rule.
- One of the coaches' fundamental responsibilities must be to inspire their players to achieve academic success, not just to make passing grades, but to secure a well-rounded high school education and to graduate with honor.
- DragonFly needs to be kept up to date, including scores and cancellations. The coach will be responsible for paying any fines incurred due to not meeting deadlines.

Other Responsibilities

- Coaches are responsible for locking up all facilities after games/practices.
- Game officials must have the respect of the coaches and players if they are to do their job effectively. Off and on-the-field criticism of officials and players to the public will be considered unethical.
- At least one coach per sport will attend official rules meetings.
- Officials should always be treated in a courteous manner.
- The coaches' relationship with sports writers and radio and television commentators should be one of courtesy, honesty, and respect.
- The booster club helps all coaches and is of value to the program and to the school. It is unethical for the coaches to use this group to defeat or obstruct the administration or use

them for personal gain. Any request for monies or materials from the booster club should be channeled through the athletic director.

- Must be familiar with and adhere to all AAA guidelines. If you don't know, call the AAA office.

School Colors

The official school colors of the Midland School District are red, white, and blue. Neutral colors may be used for bordering on cloth gear. Coaches are not to alter the mascot or the colors without the Superintendent's approval. Athletes that wear headbands, elbow pads, knee pads, gloves, wristbands, etc.... must use school or neutral colors. All apparel designed for fundraising of Midland School District athletic programs must have approval from the Athletic Director.

Finances, Purchasing, and Inventories

Budgeting

Each head coach/sponsor will prepare a request for their sport. This request will be submitted to the athletic director each year in April. Expenses must include equipment costs and any other expenses which will be incurred by the athletic department in the operation of its program.

The athletic director and the superintendent will check these requests carefully and approve or disapprove them by item.

Purchase Orders

There are to be no purchases made and charged to athletics unless a purchase order form is issued. The principal or athletic director must sign the purchase order before the order is placed. Any person who purchases any item without a purchase order form is liable for payment of the items. Under no condition will a check be issued in payment for any item purchased that is not on a purchase order form.

Requests for the purchase of equipment will originate with the respective head coaches or sponsors and go to the athletic director for approval or disapproval. If the athletic director approves the purchase, the purchase order will be assigned a number and then will be sent to the vendor. No orders may be called into a vendor unless the athletic director has approved the purchase. In case of a call-in order, the athletic director will see that a purchase order is issued the same day the call-in order is placed.

Inventories

Each coach or sponsor shall be responsible for keeping an accurate inventory of all equipment and materials for their sport or activity. All inventories will be turned in to the athletic director. Equipment and materials used only in one sport will be kept on a sheet for that sport.

The athletic department will keep one general inventory. This is for equipment and supplies not charged to any sport. (Weights, first aid supplies, etc.) See the athletic director for forms to be used in inventories.

When new equipment is received, the head coach or sponsor will put it on their inventory before they store or issue it to players. They shall also notify the athletic director that the equipment has been received. This will allow the athletic director to put it on his inventory and authorize payment of the invoice.

The athletic director shall be notified when items are to be removed from the inventory. There shall be an explanation for the removal of any item telling why it is removed.

No coach may give away or sell any equipment purchased by the athletic fund unless approved by the athletic director.

At the conclusion of a sport's "season," the coach shall carefully review his inventory and see that it is accurate and current. A copy of this new inventory will be filed (or shared electronically) with the athletic director and superintendent within two weeks after the season ends.

All athletic equipment is to be issued to the players. The coach will see that the equipment issued is charged to the student on a checkout sheet. Equipment lost due to negligence is to be paid for by the student. The school will charge the replacement cost of the item. **A student who does not pay will not be allowed to participate in any athletic program until the debt is paid.**

Care And Storage of Equipment

The head coach or sponsor will ensure that all equipment is clean and stored in a designated area when his season ends. All equipment needing repairs will be separated, and the athletic director will be notified to have estimates of repair costs made.

Operation And Administration

Coaches and sponsors are responsible for seeing that their respective facilities are kept clean and neat. Under no circumstances will a coach turn the keys to a facility over to an outside group or student without prior approval from the athletic director or superintendent.

Midland School District Athletics will not participate in the Supplemental Instruction Program (SIP). Athletes must have a 2.0 to play on athletics teams.

All Games will be scheduled in accordance with AAA guidelines.

Football

The head football coach and athletic director are responsible for scheduling.

The coach negotiates with the other schools to set up dates, game times, and sites.

The coaches shall be very mindful of the welfare of their athletes during practice. Such things as heat, water, replacing body liquids, and possible over-exertion must be watched.

Basketball

The coach negotiates with the other schools to set up dates, game times, and sites.

The senior boys' basketball coach and the senior girl's basketball coach are responsible for the scheduling.

The coaches shall negotiate with other schools to set up dates, game times, and sites.

The coaches must work cooperatively on this with the final approval by the AD.

The first legal playing date is the first Monday after the last regularly scheduled football game.

No games may be played which are not contracted in writing.

The Red/White game will not be played until the Football season (including postseason) has been completed.

Gym floor must be swept after each practice or game.

Volleyball

The Volleyball coach is responsible for scheduling.

The coach will schedule only three volleyball matches per week.

Gym floor must be swept after each practice or game.

Track

The track coaches will schedule all track meets with final approval by the Athletic Director.

Ordinarily, the track coaches will try to schedule two track meets per week.

All coaches should encourage their athletes to participate in track.

The season for track opens at the closing of basketball season and closes with the end of AAA-sanctioned track activities.

Baseball

The Midland High School Baseball team will be composed of 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th graders.

The baseball coach will schedule all baseball games with final approval by the Athletic Director.

Players may participate in baseball and track or any other spring sport.

Baseball season closes with the Baseball State Tournament.

The Midland Baseball team may compete in the extended Baseball Season of 8 days.

Softball

The Midland High School Softball team will be composed of 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th graders.

The softball coach will schedule all softball games with final approval by the Athletic Director.

Players may participate in softball and track or any other spring sport.

Softball season closes with the Softball State Tournament.

Cheerleading

Cheerleaders are expected to cheer at football and basketball home games.

Cheer Sponsors will develop and implement a demerit system that will be followed by all members of the squad.

Eligibility of Players

The coach is responsible for checking the eligibility of all players that meet the AAA guidelines for eligibility. He or She shall not play any student who is ineligible.

Should an ineligible player be used unknowingly, the superintendent or athletic director shall immediately notify the AAA of the violation.

Ninth-grade athletes may participate on a senior high team if there is not a junior high team in a sport or after the last game of the junior high season of each sport.

A Student Who Quits a Sport

Any student who quits an in-season sport may not go into an off-season program for any sport. As in any situation, there may be unusual circumstances. In that case, if both coaches are in agreement and it has been discussed with the athletic director and determined that it may be in the best interest of the student-athlete and the athletic program, the student-athlete may be allowed to go to an off-season program.

Example: a student quit football in September. He reports to study hall and remains there until the conclusion of the Football season. He may join the basketball program or go into the off-season football program at that time.

Example of UNUSUAL circumstance: Student has parental problems beyond his/her control, does not have a ride, or can't get to practice at the time prescribed, etc.

A student may transfer from an off-season program to a sport if both coaches agree to the change.

A student who is removed from an athletic team by a physician may go to any program that the physician will allow but must present a written statement from the physician.

A student dismissed for disciplinary reasons from an athletic team must go to study hall until the season for that sport ends.

Student Managers

The head coach of each sport should choose managers. They should be trained to be a vital team member and not be abused by the players. They should be supervised by a coach at all practices, just as the players are. Student managers must have all paperwork, including physicals, that is required for all team members.

Discipline

- Coaches should be fair and consistent.
- Our general philosophy will be that we will attempt to help someone who makes a mistake. However, if this is repeated, the welfare of the team must take priority. This violation might mean breaking training rules, missing practice, having a poor attitude, etc.
- Coaches have the right to discipline athletes on their individual teams but should exercise sound judgment in administering specific penalties, keeping in mind the welfare of the team as well as the individual.
- No coach should dismiss an athlete from a team before discussing it with the head coach, athletic director and principal, allowing a 24-hour evaluation period except in extenuating circumstances. Remember that the easiest thing to do is remove a problem; saving a student and keeping them in your program takes wisdom and courage.
- Coaches should regularly encourage students to attend practice and classes. **Any athlete who does not practice should not play.** A medical reason, however, should be considered when holding athletes out of contests for missing practice.
- Athletes assigned in-school suspension cannot be taken out of ISS for practice or to go on team trips. However, they can go with the team on a trip after school is out or play at home.
- Athletes suspended from school (ISS or OSS) cannot attend a practice or a game while suspended.
- Coaches should remind athletes that hazing another student is against state law and will turned over to the administration of Midland School District and the Independence County Sheriff's Department.

Use Of Facilities

Approval to use public facilities on the Midland School District Campuses, must be approved by the building principal or superintendent in advance. Unless there is an unusual circumstance, no Sunday practices will be required. In that situation, prior approval must be obtained from the athletic director.

Coach And Player Conduct and Appearance

Players and coaches are constantly in the public eye. Their actions and appearance are indicative to the public of our school program. All should be careful that their actions and personal appearance are such that they always make a favorable impression wherever they are. Midland is proud that the athletic teams and students have built a reputation for cleanliness and sportsmanship. We expect to maintain this reputation.

No coach or player may use tobacco in any form at school, practice, or games.

Physical Examinations and Insurance

All students require physical examinations before they can practice or participate in any sport. The school carries a **secondary** athletic insurance policy on all athletes during the time they are involved in athletics. If additional coverage is desired, it may be purchased by the student.

Transportation

- All out-of-town trips must have the approval of the athletic director.
- Transportation requests should be made for the whole season at least two weeks before the season opens. (Currently, we do this by submitting contest schedules to the transportation coordinator).
- Students need to be in class. Plan trips so they miss as little class time as possible.
- Coaches should teach students to respect school property and take care of buses.
- The coach should check the bus before leaving and report any damage.
- After trips, the coach should check the bus, return it clean, and report any damage.
- The athletes should be properly supervised on all trips.
- Strive to return home as soon as possible, especially on school nights.
- Overnight trips will be permitted only with special permission from the athletic director and will be discouraged unless necessary.
- Coaches will use a debit card issued from the Central Office on trips, secure itemized receipts for all money spent, and submit them to the Central Office the following day.
- Athletes must follow school rules.
- Coaches are to prepare rosters and notify the office of out of class and departure times on game days.
- All athletes are encouraged to travel and return with the team. If a parent wishes their student to return home from an event with them, the parent/guardian must sign the sign-out sheet. Only the parent/guardian can sign a student out as stated in the student handbook. Other unique transportation needs must be pre-approved by the Athletic Director and Principal. Coaches should keep the request with their roster in case of emergency.
- Persons not associated with the team cannot travel, eat, or room with the team.
- If a game is canceled, notify the transportation department immediately.
- Bus evacuations should be done prior to the 1st bus trip. The transportation department will provide the forms to be completed and returned to the transportation director.
- Coaches should be prepared to drive a bus.

Awards Policy

Mustang Award

Given to the player who exhibits leadership, sportsmanship, and scholarship.

Requirements for lettering in athletics at Midland High School:

- A student must participate in a particular sport most of the season and naturally finishes the season.
- A cheerleader must complete both the football and basketball seasons as a member of the squad to letter.
- After a student earns one athletic award in a year, that student is also eligible for another award should he/she letter in another sport.
- The school will present the appropriate letter.
- Students named All-Conference or All-State will receive an appropriate patch provided by the school.
- Students who are members of a district championship team or state championship team will receive a championship patch provided by the school.
- Awards will be presented at the Athletic Banquet for that sport.

Credit For Athletics

A half credit of Physical Education is given for participation in athletics per semester based on the following three criteria:

- Taught by a certified physical education instructor.
- The sport meets the course outline and curriculum frameworks as set by the State Department of Education.
- The sport is 18 weeks long (comparable to a semester timeline).

Attendance

To participate in an extracurricular activity, students must be present at school for 4 periods (50% of the student's scheduled day) on the day of the event unless there is an extenuating circumstance, or they have a doctor's excuse.

When two or more sports/activities occur simultaneously, the in-season sport/activity takes precedence.

Common Practices

9th Grade participation in Sr. High Football, Basketball, and Track will be allowed only after the following provisions are made:

The athlete will participate on the Sr. high level for the entire season in that sport.

The coaches of both the Jr. and Sr. high sports (Jr. and Sr. football, & Jr. and Sr. basketball, etc.), the athletic director, and the principal will discuss the impact of a select 9th grader being allowed to participate on the senior high level. The Jr. high coach, for whom the 9th grader is participating at the time, will have top priority when considering moving a 9th grader up to a senior high sport.

If there is an agreement between the coaches, athletic director, and principals that it will be in the best interest of the total athletic program, then there will be communication with the athlete and his/her parents. If the athlete wishes to move up and the parents are supportive, the athlete will be allowed to participate in a Senior High sport.

Major considerations in moving a 9th grader up will be what is best for the total athletic program and what is best for the individual.

Participant Agreement, Consent, Release, and Venue

This form is valid for the 2023-2024 school year and must be on file prior to participation.

Part 1. Student Agreement, Consent, And Release (to be signed by student at the bottom)

A. I know of no reason why I am not eligible to represent my school in an extracurricular activity. I agree to follow the rules of my school and to abide by their decisions. I know that extracurricular activity participation is a privilege. I know of the risks involved in extracurricular activity participation and choose to accept such risks. I hereby authorize the use or disclosure of my individually identifiable health information should treatment for illness or injury become necessary. I also authorize physicians or other designated medical professionals associated to review my individually identifiable health information and/or a video live feed of a health-related inspection/exam for the purpose of determining my eligibility to participate in certain extracurricular activities. I further authorize the disclosure of my individually identifiable health information by any physician performing such examination to appropriate school officials or other health care officials involved in determining eligibility for participation in extracurricular activities. I hereby consent to the disclosure by my school to AAA, upon its request, and hereby grant AAA the right to review all records including my SSID number relevant to my eligibility including, but not limited to, my official transcripts, and records relating to enrollment and attendance, academic standing, age, discipline, residence, and physical fitness. This Consent includes granting AAA the right to review all records otherwise protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and all official transcripts provided to my school from any school. I hereby grant the released parties the right to photograph and/or videotape me and further to use my name, face, likeness, voice and appearance in connection with exhibitions, publicity, advertising, promotional and commercial materials without reservation or limitation. The released parties, however, are under no obligation to exercise said rights herein.

Part 2. Parental Agreement, Consent, And Release (to be completed and signed by a parent(s) at the bottom; where divorced or separated, parents with legal custody must sign.)

A. I hereby give consent for my child to participate in any AAA recognized or sanctioned sport EXCEPT for the following sport(s):

B. I know of, and acknowledge that my child knows of, the risks involved in extracurricular activity participation. I authorize emergency medical treatment for my child should the need arise for such treatment while my child is under the supervision of the school. I further hereby authorize the use or disclosure of my child's individually identifiable health information should

treatment for illness or injury become necessary. I consent to the disclosure, by my child's school, to the AAA, upon its request, of all records relevant to his/her extracurricular activity eligibility including, but not limited to, his/her records relating to enrollment and attendance, academic standing, age, discipline, residence, and physical fitness. I grant the released parties the right to photograph and/or videotape my child and further to use said child's name, face, likeness, voice, and appearance in connection with exhibitions, publicity, advertising, promotional, and commercial materials without reservation or limitation. The released parties, however, are under no obligation to exercise said rights herein.

Part 3. Litigation

A. VENUE FOR ANY AND ALL LITIGATION AND ATTORNEY FEES. I agree that in the event I, or anyone acting on my child's behalf, files suit against AAA or any of its officers, directors, agents, or employees alleging any cause of action and seeking either legal or equitable relief impacting my child (individually) or my child's team participation in AAA contests, such action shall be filed in the Pulaski County, Arkansas, Circuit Court. I also agree that filing such action in the Pulaski County Circuit Court is both fair and reasonable.

I HAVE READ THIS CAREFULLY AND KNOW IT CONTAINS A RELEASE AND VENUE CLAUSE (Only one parent/legal primary custodian signature is required)

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____