

# DELTA R-5 SCHOOLS



# STUDENT ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

## I. PHILOSOPHY

Participation in interscholastic sports provides students with unique educational experiences. Such participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the activity, to the student body, to the community, and to the student themselves. These experiences contribute to the development of learning skills and emotional patterns that enables the student to make maximum use of his or her education. However, not all student-athletes will receive the same participation opportunities in games and contests. Regardless, student-athletes will be given opportunities to develop intangibles such as skill development, commitment, perseverance, self-discipline, and self-efficacy. These are essential life skills. Our goal is to provide educational and social experiences for students, which will result in the development of good citizenship, sportsmanship, and equitable competition.

## II. GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATON

Delta RV School offers athletics and cheerleading to appeal to the needs and interest of students. Students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular/interscholastic programs. Interscholastic/Extracurricular activities are governed by the Delta RV Board of Education and the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA). To be eligible to participate, students must follow the interscholastic activity standards set by Delta RV School as well as meet the following eligibility criteria, which have been established by MSHSSA for its members.

## III. MSHSAA GUIDELINES

1. A student must be a good citizen in his/her community. Conduct shall be satisfactory in accord with the standards of good school discipline, and any student who withdraws from school because of disciplinary measures shall not be eligible for an interscholastic activity for one full year from the date of withdrawal.
2. A student must be enrolled in courses that offer 3 units of credit, and he/she must have earned 3 units of credit in the preceding semester or made progress in special education.
3. Each student participating in athletics is required to have a physician's certificate stating that he/she is physically able to participate in athletic contests. The medication certificate is valid for the purpose of this rule if issued on or after February 1 of the previous year.
4. A student shall not be permitted to practice or compete for a school until it has verification that he/she has basic athletic insurance coverage.
5. A student must have entered school within the first eleven days of the semester.
6. A student must not have received or competed for an award of any kind other than that given by his/her school for his/her services as an athlete in the sport in which he/she is competing.
7. A student shall not have reached the age 19 prior to July 1 this school year, or age 15 as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader.
8. A student shall not have competed under an assumed or false name.
9. A student must attend the eighth semester immediately following his/her seventh semester.
10. A student shall not transfer schools without a corresponding change of residence of his/her parents unless he/she meets an appropriate exception of the transfer standards.
11. A student shall not compete on an outside team or in individual match competition during the sport season he/she is representing his/her school in the same or another

sport. He or she may compete in organized non-school competition in other sports in which the MSHSAA member schools compete interscholastically under the following conditions:

- A. No school time is missed to compete, practice for, or travel to the site of the non-school competition.
  - B. The student shall not practice for or compete in the non-school competition on the same date he/she practices or competes for the school.
12. A student shall not transfer from one high school to another because of being influenced to do so.
  13. A student shall not attend a camp involving a fall season sport after July 31.

#### IV CODE AND ACTIVITIES CODE:

The Delta RV School district is fortunate to have students who exhibit good conduct in the classroom and at school activities. However, there are instances when the school must take the responsibility to exercise disciplinary measures.

1. **ABSENCE AND ACTIVITIES:** A student must attend at least one-half of the school day to be eligible to participate in or attend an activity that night. *In extraordinary circumstances, the principal or administrative designee may excuse the student's absence to allow participation that day.*

2. **TRANSPORTATION:** If the school provides transportation, the student must ride that school transportation to and from all sponsored activities. Exceptions will only be made where the parent or guardian contacts the coach/advisor to make arrangements.

3. **SUSPENSION:** If a student is suspended from school, the student will not be eligible to participate until he/she has fulfilled the disciplinary requirements established by the administration. *Students may not participate in activities during In-School Suspension. Students may participate the day following the last day of suspension. However if their punishment is in-school suspension the day of the game they will dress out and sit the bench.*

4. **USE OF ALCOHOL AND NON-PRESCRIBED DRUGS:** Use, Influence, Possession, or Sale  
First Offense: (Out of Season) Loss of 10% of regular season contests for the next interscholastic activity in which the student participates. (In Season) Loss of 30% of regular season contests for the current interscholastic activity in which the student athlete is participating in.

Second Offense: (In or Out of Season) Loss of 50% of regular season contests for the current or subsequent interscholastic activities in which the student athlete participates.

Subsequent offenses: (In or Out of Season) Loss of eligibility for 365 days from the date of infraction in all interscholastic activities.

5. **USE OF TOBACCO:** Use or Possession

First Offense: (In or Out of season) Warning/Conference with Coach/AD

Second Offense: (Out of season) Loss of 5% of regular season contests for the next interscholastic activity in which the student athlete participates. (In season) Loss of 10% of regular season contests for the current or subsequent interscholastic activities in which the student athlete participates.

Third Offense: (In or Out of season) Loss of 30% of regular season contests for the next interscholastic activity in which the student athlete participates.

Subsequent Offenses: Loss of eligibility for 365 days from the date of infraction in all interscholastic activities.

6. **STUDENTS INVOLVED IN MISCONDUCT WHILE AT SCHOOL:** This includes truancy, disrespect to teachers, fighting, use of abusive language, etc. After review of the advisor/coach, Athletic Director and principal, the student and parents will be notified of the results. Penalties will range from a reprimand and placing the student on probationary status to temporary or permanent restriction from representing the school in the activities program.
7. **STUDENTS WHO ENGAGE IN UNSPORTSMANLIKE ACTS:** Such acts as deliberately striking an opposing player, using profane or vulgar language or using abusive language during the contest resulting in ejection will, in most cases, cause the student to be restricted from representing the school for at least the next contest. A student who commits such an act, but is not ejected, may also be subject to at least one contest restriction. Each case of this type will be reviewed by the advisor/coach, Athletic Director and principal before a final decision is reached.
8. **SOCIAL MEDIA SITES & ACCOUNTS:** Delta athletes shall refrain from using social media sites & accounts that would include behavior unbecoming and in violation of the expectations of delta student athletes. Delta athletes represent Delta in the community and use of these websites should be done in a manner that represents Delta in the highest standards and according to the expectations. This applies to ALL online conduct and Delta Athletic Department reserves the right to monitor social media sites & accounts.

First Offense: (In or Out of Season) Loss of 10% of regular season contests for the current or subsequent interscholastic activities in which the student athlete participates.

Second Offense: (In or Out of Season) Loss of 30% of regular season contests for the current or subsequent interscholastic activities in which the student athlete participates.

Subsequent Offenses: (In or Out of Season) Loss of eligibility for 365 days from the date of infraction in all interscholastic activities.

9. **EQUIPMENT CHECK IN:** Equipment should be returned at the end of the season. If not returned or returned in the condition it was given to the student athlete, then a damage assessment and or fine could be added to the students file. The damage assessment price could be up to \$150.00.
10. **DUE PROCESS:** Students will have the opportunity to express their side of any incident in which they may be involved. If the student is dissatisfied with any decision, he/she has the right to appeal through the following channels.

- |                   |                       |              |
|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1. Coach/Sponsor  | 2. Athletic Director  | 3. Principal |
| 4. Superintendent | 5. Board of Education |              |

**All punishments are carried over to the next sport that the athlete participates in. If an athlete quits a sport, then the punishment time is voided during that season.**

Any incidents which occur that are not covered by these guidelines will be reviewed on an individual basis and decisions related to penalties will be made by the school administration in consultation with the advisor/coach.

## V POST SEASON:

#### Lettering and Awards:

All student-athlete awards shall be governed by the MSHSAA award rules.

1. Delta RV athletics is part of the Scott-Mississippi Conference and Mississippi Valley Conference. When students receive honors through the affiliated conferences they will receive patches for only first team honors. The conferences also select honorable mention honors. The school and conferences will not incur those costs.

#### VI MISC.

##### BLUEPRINTS FOR THE SUCCESSFUL PARENT (MSHSAA)

Children learn by observing. Parents must exhibit leadership, sportsmanship and character if they expect their child to develop these highly desirable traits.

#### Support

1. Be supportive of team coaches and managers. Respect decisions made by others.
2. Be an active supporter as a fan, and as a parent solicit feedback of your child regarding his/her progress and how the team is developing.
3. Be cognizant that all players will not possess the same skills.
4. Display stewardship and assistance with your involvement and support of the school and team.
5. Do not burden your child to perform outside his/her capabilities. A child doing his/her best is good enough.
6. Respect the facilities where events are held and assist to make them better.
7. Attend practices and contests when time permits. Every effort should be taken to see that the child is present in advance of the start of each game and practice.
8. Celebrate team as well as individual improvements.

#### Responsibilities of the Parent

1. Make yourself aware of the coach's expectations and team guidelines.
2. Attend any team meetings your child's coach may schedule.
3. Take the time to know your child's coach and assistants.
4. Notify the coach as early as possible, if your child can't attend a team event.
5. Know and respect the team's practice and league schedule. Ensure your child arrives and is picked up accordingly.
6. Read and respond to informational notices supplied by the team manager of coaches.
7. Read and consent to all items required by the parental consent contracts and codes.
8. Provide safe personal equipment.
9. Know the rules of the game. Obtain and read basic and supplemental rules of the sport. Attend any pre-season rule or coordination meetings offered for parents and players.

##### BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESSFUL PLAYER

Players are ambassadors of their school, team and their family. Players must exhibit leadership, sportsmanship and character at all times.

#### The Player as a Leader

1. Accept playing time and position designated by your coaches.

2. Assist where possible in developing the skills of the less experienced teammates.
3. Accept and respect team coaches' and managers' decisions.

#### **Know the Rules**

1. Obtain and read the basic and supplemental rules of your sport.
2. Learn and apply the rules of the game to the best of your ability.
3. Attend any pre-season rules or coordination meetings offered for players.

#### **Know your Organization and its Policies**

1. Supply your coach with accurate information at all times.
2. Show respect for your team's equipment.
3. Submit all fees, registration, identification cards, parental consent forms, etc. to your coach in a timely manner.

#### **Participation and Performance**

1. Enjoy your sport. If something is troubling you, speak to a parent or coach.
2. Be prepared. Attend practices with proper equipment.
3. Listen and participate fully.
4. Attend and be on time for team practices and games.
5. Respect your teammates.

### **PARENT / COACH COMMUNICATION**

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and to provide greater benefit to the children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

#### **Communication you should expect from your child's coach:**

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the squad.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e. practices, special equipment, out of season conditioning.
5. Procedure followed should your child be injured during participation.
6. Discipline that may result in the denial of your child's participation.

#### **Communication Coaches Expect from Parents:**

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any scheduled conflict well in advance.
3. Specific concerns with regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

As your children become involved in the programs at Delta RV School District, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there may also be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

#### **Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches:**

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.
4. Concerns about your child's grades.

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you hope. **Coaches are professionals.** They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things must be left to the discretion of the coach.

**Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches:**

1. Playing time.
2. Team strategy.
3. Play calling.
4. Other student-athletes.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue or concern.

**If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, the procedure you should follow:**

1. Call to set up an appointment. The Delta RV School District high school phone number is (573) 794-2511.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director and a meeting will be set up for you.
3. **Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.**

**THE NEXT STEP:**

What a parent can do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution - -

- Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation.

Since research indicates that a student involved in co-curricular activities has a greater chance for success during adulthood, these programs have been established. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope the information provided within this pamphlet make both your child's and your experience with the Delta RV School District athletic program less stressful and more enjoyable

**IN ORDER FOR YOUR CHILD TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DELTA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAM, PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS PAGE TO THE HEAD COACH.**

I have carefully read and understand the athletic policies of Delta High School (approved by the Board of Education) containing the rules and regulations which athletes are expected to abide by. I agree that I will at all times abide by these rules and regulations as long as I am a member of the athletic program a Delta High School.

Signature of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

---