

Platte County R-3 Middle School Athletics/Activities Handbook



2020-21

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Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation

The Platte County R-III School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Compliance Officer:

Dr. Rob Gardner, Assistant Superintendent of Personnel & Operations
998 Platte Falls Rd, Platte City, MO 64079
Phone: 816-858-5420, Fax: 816-858-5593
Email: gardnerr@platteco.k12.mo.us

Title IX

The Platte County R-3 School District Board of Education is committed to maintaining a workplace and educational environment that is free from discrimination and harassment in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs, services, activities and facilities. In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Part 106 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations, the District strictly prohibits discrimination and harassment against employees, students or others on the basis of sex in its programs, activities, or in employment.

Any person may report sex discrimination – including, but not limited to, sexual harassment – whether or not the person reporting is the person alleged to be the victim of the conduct. This report may be made: (1) in person; (2) via mail; (3) via phone; or (4) via email. This report may be made at any time – including non-business hours.

The following individual has been designated to coordinate compliance with nondiscrimination requirements contained in Title IX. Information concerning the provisions of this act, and the rights provided thereunder, are available from the Title IX Coordinator. Inquiries or concerns regarding the application of this notice may be referred to our district's Title IX Coordinator. Any person who is unable to resolve a problem or grievance arising under Title IX may contact the Office for Civil Rights, One Petticoat Lane, 1010 Walnut Street, Suite 320 Kansas City, MO 64106, phone number (816) 268-0550.

Title IX Coordinator:

Dr. Rob Gardner, Assistant Superintendent
998 Platte Falls Rd., Platte City, Mo. 64079
Phone: 816-858-5420
Fax: 816-858-5593
Email: gardenerr@platteco.k12.mo.us



Platte County R-3 School District policies can be accessed through the school's website: www.plattecountyschooldistrict.com.>Leadership>Board of Education> School Board Policies.

Mission Statement

The Platte County R-III Athletic/Activities Department provides opportunities which enhance the educational experience. Our students become stronger members of their local and global community by participating in competitive, tradition-rich programs that focus on teamwork, sportsmanship, integrity and commitment.

State/Conference Affiliation

Platte County R-III middle schools (Platte City and Barry) are members of the Missouri State Middle School Athletic Association and, as members, are committed to adhere to the rules and regulations of the association.

Sports Offered by Season

Fall

Cross Country
Football
Volleyball

Winter

Boys Basketball
Girls Basketball
Wrestling

Spring

Track
Swimming (probationary sport)

Activities

Band
Vocal Music
Archery

(Please see the Athletic/Activities website for a directory of coaches/sponsors)

Participation/Eligibility Guidelines

The Missouri State High School Activities Association ("MSHSAA"), of which Platte County R-III middle schools are members, is a voluntary, not for profit, educational association of junior and senior high schools established for the purpose of working cooperatively in adopting standards for supervising and regulating interscholastic activities and contests.

One of the primary functions of the MSHSAA is to establish eligibility standards that must be met by all students to attain the privilege of representing their school in interscholastic activities. **ELIGIBILITY IS A PRIVILEGE TO BE GRANTED BY THE SCHOOL TO A STUDENT, WHICH ALLOWS THAT STUDENT TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES. ELIGIBILITY IS NOT A STUDENT'S RIGHT BY LAW.** Precedents setting legal cases have determined that eligibility is a privilege to be granted *only* if the student meets all standards adopted by the school and MSHSAA, which enables the school to grant the



student such a privilege. Each individual coach may establish rules and regulations for team participation that are more stringent than rules and regulations applicable to the student body as a whole.

Age Limitation

If student will reach age nineteen (19) prior to July 1, before their senior year of high school, that student may be ineligible compete at the high school level during their 8th grade year, provided their attendance has been during consecutive semesters beginning with entrance into the seventh grade.

Citizenship

The Platte County R-III School District and the MSHSAA expects students participating in extracurricular activities to maintain high levels of citizenship at all times, both in school and away from school. As stated in MSHSAA By-Law 2.2.1, students must be credible citizens and judged so by the proper school authorities.

Law Enforcement

Participants of extracurricular activities will be held accountable for their actions during the year. Per MSHSAA By-Law 2.2.2, criminal charges will be considered justification for suspension from competition. Students will remain ineligible until all proceedings with the legal system have been completed and any penalty (jail time, fine, etc.) or special condition of probation (restitution, community service, counseling, etc.) has been satisfied.

Academic Requirements

Under MSHSAA By-Law 2.3, students must meet certain academic requirements in order to be academically eligible to participate. Under this by-law, a “grading period” is defined as a period of time no less than six weeks and no greater than nine weeks where progress is determined and reported to students/parents. This section of MSHSAA’s by-laws does not apply to students promoted for the first time into the 7th or 9th grading period prior to the first day of class.

During the **grading prior to participation**, a student must have been promoted to a higher grade or higher level in special education at the close of the previous year. However, any such student who failed more than one scheduled subject, or failed to make standard progress in special education, shall be ineligible the following grading period regardless of promotion or rank

During the **grading period of participation**, a student must be enrolled in and regularly attending the normal course of that grade or must have enrolled in a full course at his or her level in any public school special education program approved by DESE which, though ungraded, enrolls pupils of equivalent chronological age.

Suspension

A student shall not be considered eligible while under suspension. A student who is expelled from school or withdraws from school because of disciplinary measures shall not be considered eligible for 365 days from the date of expulsion or withdrawal. A student who receives in-school suspension may attend practice but not participate in a contest that occurs on that day. A student who receives out of school suspension shall not attend practice at all.

Maximum Number of Seasons

A student is eligible to participate in any sport for a maximum of two seasons. Any part of a game played during a season counts as a season of participation. Eligibility to participate in middle school activities begins when the student first enters seventh grade and lasts for the first four semesters they are enrolled in middle school. The fourth semester must immediately follow the seventh semester.

Participating in More Than One Sport Per Season



A student who has gone out for a sport but quits of his own accord will not be eligible to start practicing for another sport before the end of the competition in the sport that was dropped. The head coach of the dropped sport and the head coach of the new sport may waive this rule only under special circumstances and after discussion with the administration. Participation in more than one sport within a season is left to the mutual agreement of the student and the head coaches/administration involved.

Respect

No showing of disrespect for administrators, teachers, and officials will be tolerated. The use of words such as, "Coach, Mr., Mrs., Sir and Ma'am" must be used when addressing these individuals.

Transitioning Military Children

Platte County R-III shall facilitate the opportunity for transitioning military children's inclusion in extracurricular activities, regardless of application deadlines, to the extent they are otherwise qualified.

Restrictions on Non-School Competitions and Teams

A student may not participate in any organized non-school athletic competition and school team in the same sport during the same season. Exceptions: Individual sports can participate in non-school competitions. Please consult the Athletic Director specific information.

A student may practice or compete as a member of a non-school team or as an individual participant in organized non-school competition in a sport different than the school sport season under the following conditions:

*No school time is missed to compete, practice for, or travel to the site of such non-school competition unless the absence is approved by school administration.

*Athlete may not practice for or compete in the non-school competition on the same date he or she practices or competes for the school team without approval of the school administration.

Before joining any non-school team or enter any non-school competition involving athletics, student should check with their principal or athletic director to make certain these standards are being met.

Coach Rules

The Head Coach of each sport may have rules and guidelines designed specifically for their program that are not included in this handbook. Coaches will detail their rules in their specific team handbooks and/or meetings. Any questions pertaining to eligibility that is not answered above should be brought to the attention of the athletic director.

Violations of Participation Guidelines

Confirmation of violations to the participation guidelines must be by a coach, school administrator, school personnel or law enforcement official. If circumstances warrant, stricter penalties may be administered with the discretion of the head coach. These guidelines are in effect for any student who participates in extracurricular activities.

At the beginning of each season (fall, winter, spring) there will be a mandatory parents meeting webinar, which parents and students must view prior to any interscholastic competition.



Transportation of Student-Athletes

1. Males and females will be seated separately on the bus.
2. If a student rides to the activity on the bus, he/she will ride home on the bus. The only exception to this is when a parent makes a request both verbally and written to transport the student and receives approval from the Activities Office. In the case of an emergency the coaching staff and/or administrator will deem acceptable arrangements at the event?

Attendance at Scheduled Practices, Events, or School

If it is necessary to be absent from practice or a scheduled event, the student is expected to obtain permission from the head coach prior to the scheduled practice or event. If the absence is unforeseen, the student should make every attempt to contact the head coach concerning the nature of the absence. The head coach will determine whether the absence is EXCUSED or UNEXCUSED. UNEXCUSED ABSENCES can cost an athlete his or her position on a team, his or her opportunity to dress out for an event, or even a possible suspension or elimination from the activity in which they are involved.

School attendance is required of all of our student-athletes. Students are required to be at school all day in order to participate. Students who are absent from school on the day of competition will not be eligible for competition or practice on that day. ("absence" is defined as more than 20 minutes late to 1st hour or 8:00 a.m.). This rule also applies for the day before an event that comes on the weekend. It is also required for student-athletes to be in attendance the day following a contest. A student-athlete who is absent or more than 20 minutes late the day after an event will miss the next contest. Absences may be excused with permission from one of the principals (**this has to be pre-arranged**) or a doctor's note. Do not use athletics as an excuse to miss school.

In the event that a student is assigned detention hours or make-up work as a result of a classroom problem or absence, she/he is not allowed to use the excuse of "I have practice, so I can't stay". The classroom obligation always comes first. Students must be promoted to a higher grade at the close of the previous school year to be eligible for extracurricular activities. Student academic eligibility will also be based on a grading period of nine weeks. A student may have no more than one "F" during the grading period in order to be academically eligible to participate in extracurricular activities. Grading period is defined as a quarter of the school year. In addition to the policies and procedures stated herein, student-athletes must also meet the eligibility criteria of the MSHSAA.

Tobacco, Vaping and Alcohol Use

The use of tobacco related products is **absolutely prohibited** in or out of school. The first offense will result in suspension of 10% of contests. The second offense will result in a suspension for the remainder of the season.

The use and/or possession of a vaping device is **absolutely prohibited** in or out of school. The first offense will result in suspension of 20% of contests. The second offense will result in a suspension for the remainder of the season. A third offense will result in a 365 day suspension from all extracurricular activities. A vape and/or electronic smoking device that tests positive for a controlled substance will fall under the drug/alcohol policy.



The use and/or possession or distribution of alcohol or illegal substances is **absolutely prohibited** in or out of school. The first offense will result in a suspension of 50% of contests in the student's current or next activity (example: 12 contests in basketball = 6 contest suspension). If the student completes a school approved drug/alcohol class, the suspension will reduce to 30% of contests suspension. The suspension may follow into the next sport season or the next school year. Second offense will result in a 365 day suspension from all extracurricular activities. A third offense will result in the student losing the privilege of participation in extracurricular activities for the remainder of their middle school career.

Physical Exams/Insurance Requirements/Other Forms

Current physical, insurance information, signed concussion materials and citizenship forms must be on file in the athletic director's office for the current school year to be permitted to practice and participate in all sports. In 3.8.1-2, the MSHSAA handbook states:

The school shall require of each student participating in athletics a certificate of an issued physical signed and authorized by a physician, advanced nurse practitioner in written collaborative practice with a physician, or a certified physician's assistant in collaboration with a sponsoring physician stating that the individual is physically able to participate in athletics practices and contests of his/her school. **A student shall not be permitted to practice or compete for a school until a complete, signed certificate is on file at the school.** The medical certificate is valid for two years (730 days) from the date of issue for the purpose of this rule.

A student shall **not** be permitted to practice or compete for a school until it has verification that he or she has basic athletic insurance coverage.

Additionally, the District requires a student to sign and file a MSHSAA concussion packet, risk warning statement, and citizenship form each year with the District's Athletic Director.

If a student's file is missing any one of the above-mentioned forms, they will not be allowed to practice with any Platte County R-III High School athletic team.

NO PHYSICAL FORM – NO PRACTICE

NO INSURANCE – NO PRACTICE

NO CONCUSSION FORMS – NO PRACTICE

NO CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENT FORM – NO PRACTICE

NO RISK WARNING STATEMENT – NO PRACTICE

Sportsmanship

As an athlete representing Platte County R-III middle school, you have the responsibility for exhibiting good sportsmanship at all times. The moment you put on that school uniform you become a representative of your student body, your school and your community. You will receive the ingredients of good sportsmanship through the teaching, coaching and examples of the coaching staff. Exhibit the positive examples of sportsmanship you see.

A very important lesson we learn through interscholastic athletics is that by hard work and dedication we can improve. No one can tell you what you must be. If you are willing to recognize the ability you possess and work hard, you can achieve success in athletics. Attitude is one of the principal requisites in becoming



a champion in any sort and, of course, that is best defined by how you act, how you feel and think in showing your disposition. The desire to excel, to win and to pay the price, are all positive points or attributes of attitude that contributes to a winning philosophy.

A winning philosophy is important but realizing the importance of how the game is played is equally important. Simple acts or gestures of respect, such as displaying good conduct, cooperating with officials, shaking hands with opponents before and after the contest, showing self-control at all times, accepting decisions and abiding by them, accepting both victory and defeat with pride and compassion and never being boastful or bitter, will aid you, the individual, and your team to portray the standards of sportsmanship expected of athletes at Platte County R-III middle school. Parents and fans are asked to display good examples of sportsmanship at contests. Nothing less is expected from those who attend events.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ATHLETES

"It is not your game; it's ours, the players and student-athletes that are competing. We hope the spectators will watch, enjoy, encourage and be proud of us, win or lose. We need your support and enthusiasm, not your yelling and criticism."

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 provide greater benefits to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our athletic program, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on your child's program. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your student-athlete'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. Location and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off season conditioning.
5. Procedure should your injury occur during participation.
6. Discipline that may result in the denial of participation.

Communication Coaches Expect From Parents

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.

As children become involved in the athletic programs within the Platte County R-III School District, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wish. At these times a 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.

It is very difficult to accept that your child is not playing as much as you may 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 procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue or concern:

Chain of Command

1. Call the coach to set up an appointment. Please do not attempt to speak with 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
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director. He will set up the meeting for you.
3. If you are still not satisfied, please make an appointment with the AD.
4. If you are still not satisfied, please make an appointment with the Principal
5. If you are still not satisfied, please make an appointment with the Central Office

Athletic Director Contact Information

Gabe Middleton
Platte County High School
1501 Branch St
Platte City, MO 64079
816-858-2822 ext. 1203
middletg@platteco.k12.mo.us

Social Media Policy

Inappropriate use of social media by Platte County middle school students participating in co/extra-curricular activities may result in suspension from such activities. In an effort to foster good sportsmanship and deter the need to enforce such discipline, the following guidelines are recommended as best practices for use of social media. Social media is defined as any form of electronic communication through which users create online communities to share information, ideas, personal messages, and other content. This includes social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.

1. Be Aware that Privacy Settings are NOT Foolproof. Students are highly encouraged to use privacy settings on social media sites. However, PCMS students should be aware that privacy settings are not foolproof. Although social media sites provide their users with privacy improvement updates, the changes occur frequently and can get complicated. Even if you diligently monitor your privacy settings, it's best to



assume that anything you post may potentially be seen by your school, your peers, parents, PCMS staff, the Pirate community and/or even strangers.

2. Avoid Posting Confidential Information. Be aware of the kind of information you are posting on social media sites. Posting information such as your date of birth, address, phone number, class schedule, social security number, bank account number, etc. is NOT recommended. Once such information is posted, it becomes the property of the social media site.

3. Avoid Unprofessional Public Profiles. Any information you put on social media sites is considered public information and may be viewed by members of the public. Be mindful of the image you create for yourself online. Potential, current and future employers as well as college admissions recruiters may access the information you put on social media sites.

4. Avoid Posting Illegal Activities. Photos posted via social media become the property of the social media site. You may delete the photo from your profile but the photo remains on the social media site's server. Internet search engines such as Google or Yahoo may still find that image long after you have deleted it from your profile. In addition, even if your profile is set to private, a friend can always download and save photos that third parties, such as the authorities, can use against you in the future. Students should avoid the following: photos or statements depicting violence; hazing; sexual harassment; vandalism; stalking; underage drinking; selling, possessing, or using controlled substances; or any other inappropriate behaviors outlined in the athletic/activities handbook.

5. Avoid Bullying\Threats of Violence. While students have a right to free speech, that right is NOT unlimited. Bullying is a serious problem and is not limited to student-to-student interactions. Vicious treatment and hateful words often lead to violence, suicide, depression, and discrimination. Students should avoid the following: Derogatory language or remarks about teammates, coaches, students, staff members, athletic administrators, or representatives of other schools; Demeaning statements about and/or threats to any third party; and, creating serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.

6. Avoid Lying, Cheating & Plagiarizing. While Platte County middle schools do not monitor student social media accounts, they have the right to act on information provided by third parties (i.e. students, parents, & community members). Social media sites may be investigated in the event of allegations of lying, cheating and/or plagiarism.

Platte County middle schools respect the right of their students to use social media. However, it is important for students to understand the need to exercise care in setting appropriate boundaries between their personal and public online behavior and to understand that what may seem private in the digital world can often become public, even without knowledge or consent. Students who use social media must remember that any information posted reflects on the entire Platte County middle school community. and, as such, is subject to the same behavior standards set forth in this Student Activity Handbook, MSHSAA By-Laws and state and federal law. Students should be aware that if their conduct is deemed inappropriate, such conduct may be subject to discipline, not only by school authorities, but also by law enforcement agencies.

7. Use of PCR-III Logos. The Platte County Pirate logo and District Compass logo are trademarks of Platte County R-III School District. Anyone desiring to use these trademarks must be licensed to do so.





Platte County R-3 School District 2020-21

Acknowledgement of Athletics/Activities Handbook

Student Name: _____

School: _____

Activity: _____

Coach/Sponsor: _____

School Rules and Guidelines Associated with This Activity

(Rules and guidelines to be established by the coach/sponsor and school administration)

☐ Please check the box, that you have reviewed the Athletics/Activities Handbook

District Guidelines for Student Activities:

Participation in District-sponsored activities and on District athletic teams is a privilege and not a legally protected right. Although students do not possess a legally protected right to participate in extracurricular activities, the District provides students suspended from participation with an informal opportunity to discuss the basis for their suspension.

Hazing Prohibited

I agree that I will refrain from participating in any student hazing activities as a participant or as an observer. I further understand that violation of the District's hazing policy may result in suspension or expulsion from school and suspension or expulsion from participation in all activities.

Student and Parent Acknowledgement of the Above Rules and Guidelines

I acknowledge that violation of any of the above rules and guidelines for this activity may result in suspension or permanent removal from this activity or all extracurricular activities depending upon the nature of the violation. I further agree that subject to an opportunity to present the student's version of the alleged violation, the decision of the Superintendent/designee concerning suspension and duration of suspension is final.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Date

