

WEST PLATTE  
BLUEJAYS



**ATHLETIC/ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK  
2018-2019**

# Mission

The mission of West Platte Athletics is to provide student athletes with the opportunity to reach their full potential by developing leadership skills such as perseverance, integrity, and work ethic. We expect that our athletes will take pride in their performance in the classroom as well as in competition. Student-athletes will respect themselves and all aspects of the game. Our goal is to provide all competitors with realistic feedback and knowledge to succeed in society.

# Vision

Our vision at West Platte creates a culture that supports all programs by establishing a competitive atmosphere where all student-athletes possess a desire to win. Our program provides life-long experiences while developing positive citizens who exhibit pride in school and community.

# Values

- Integrity
  - Citizenship- guides decisions/actions in competition, classroom and community
  - Committed to doing the right thing at all times
  - Honest and straightforward with communication
- Respect
  - Sportsmanship
- Work Ethic
  - Effort
  - Perseverance
  - Team work
- Accountability
- Passion
  - Contagious, competitive spirit
  - Willing to sacrifice, always willing to put team before self

The following is the handbook for all Athletics and Activities governed by the Missouri State High School Activities Association. While the rules and regulations in some spots are more stringent for an athletic team than for an activity, this handbook will govern both. There are several spots noted within the handbook where a set of regulations only pertains to an athletic team. Below are the Athletic teams and Activities offered by West Platte R-II

**ATHLETICS:** Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Softball, Volleyball, Track and Field, Wrestling.  
**ACTIVITIES:** Academic Bowl, Band, Cheer, Choir, Dance.

- **ATHLETIC/ACTIVITY PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY**

Interscholastic activities shall supplement the secondary curricular program. Most worthwhile experiences to students result in learning outcomes that will contribute toward the development of the attributes of good citizenship. Emphasis shall be upon teaching through school activities. To this end, only interscholastic activities are justified.

- **DEFINITION OF ATHLETE:** Anyone participating in sports, band competition, vocal music competition, pom-pon or cheerleading.

- **ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**

The coaches, directors, and administration of West Platte High School believe the first priority of a student should be his or her academic development. Our athletic programs offer opportunities for social, physical, and emotional development, but these objectives are considered a second priority when compared to academic development.

Eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities is a privilege, which is attained by meeting the following standards. Only by abiding by all of these standards can you be considered eligible to take part in extracurricular activities. These standards are to be used as set forth by the MSHSAA which are also printed in this handbook.

1. Students must be enrolled in a minimum of six (6) subjects to meet the MSHSAA requirements.
2. Students must pass a minimum of 6 classes in a semester in order to participate in extra-curricular activities the next semester.
3. In order for a student to remain eligible for extra-curricular activities they will also be expected to behave as a good citizen. Students who are habitually absent or late to class, who create problems in or out of the classroom, who must be continually spoken to by the administration, teachers or coaches, may find themselves ineligible for their actions alone. No student is to participate in any activity if he or she has not been in attendance the complete day of the activity without having made prior arrangements with the office and received permission to do so. This includes practices of any kind.
4. Those students who have an "IEP" program on file will receive special consideration in that they must make standard progress in all of their subjects.
5. Extra-curricular activities will be defined as all those events or activities which are associated with interscholastic competition with other schools.
6. It is the responsibility of each student to be familiar with these requirements.
7. Any student enrolling in school after the first eleven days of the school year will be placed on probation for that quarter until an official transcript is received from the previous school. Should a student enroll after the 4<sup>th</sup> week of a particular quarter he or she will be on probation through the following quarter also. Once an official transcript is received, the status of that student will be reviewed.

Hopefully, the desire of each student to be able to participate in extracurricular activities will cause him or her to become a better student and citizen.

- **CITIZENSHIP STANDARDS**

The following is taken from the official Missouri State High School Activities Association Handbook.

“Students who represent a school in interscholastic activities must be credible citizens and judged so by the proper school authority certifying a list of students for competition. Those students whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon them or their school are not considered “credible” citizens. Conduct shall be satisfactory in accord with the standards of good discipline.

A student shall not be considered eligible while under suspension. The student who is expelled or who withdraws from school because of disciplinary measures shall not be considered eligible for 365 days from the date of expulsion or withdrawal.”

The ideas reflected in these paragraphs have been used in the establishment of the disciplinary sections of this handbook.

- **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

Students must be in attendance on the days of participation in an event whether it be a practice or a game. To be in attendance a student must be in school all day with the exception of a doctor or dentist appointment, funeral or other principal, asst. principal, or athletic director pre-approved absence.

If a student is absent on a Friday, or the last day of a school week, he or she will not participate on the following Saturday unless it was because of a doctor or dentist appointment, funeral or other principal pre-approved absence. They cannot participate in an activity until they have been in attendance for a full school day.

Participants must be in school, on time, the day after participation in an activity. Failure to do so will result in possible disciplinary action. Exceptions will be made if the parents notify the school before 9:00am that day and the absence or tardy is recognized as excused by the administration.

- **TRUANCY**

A second offense for truancy will result in removal from extracurricular activities, as detailed below:

**Truancy or Tardiness (see Board policy JED and procedures JED-AP1 and JED-AP2)** – Absence from school without the knowledge and consent of parents/guardians and the school administration; excessive non-justifiable absences, even with the consent of parents/guardians; arriving after the expected time class or school begins, as determined by the district.

Subsequent Offense: Detention or 3-10 days in-school suspension, and removal from extracurricular activities.

- **PRACTICE ATTENDANCE**

A participant who misses a practice will be excused only if he or she has informed the coach in advance of the missed practice. Absences that will normally be considered excusable include doctor or dentist appointment, funeral or other principal or coach pre-approved absence. The penalty for unexcused misses from practice is discussed in the next section of this handbook.

- **INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR IN SCHOOL**

Participation in athletics is a privilege granted to those students who show the ability to conduct themselves properly in school. Participation is not a student’s right. Participants must therefore maintain a certain degree

of good conduct in the classroom and other school settings or activities. The privilege of participation may be taken away if a participant is has excessive behavioral problems.

If a student is assigned an **Out of School Suspension** he or she, on the first offense in an academic year, will be ineligible to participate in extra-curricular activities during the suspension. Each coach/director will deal with any additional consequence during that season.

Inappropriate behavior in school that results in an **In School Suspension**, or cases of unexcused absences from practice will be dealt with and considered as being equal offenses. The athletic director, sponsor or coach will deal with the participant.

- **INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR AT AN EVENT**

Athletics/Activities is one of the most visible parts of our school system. Rarely is the public given an opportunity to see the other functions of our school as often as they see our athletic or activity programs.

The behavior of our participants is very important. Our participants represent not only themselves but also their classmates, school, community, and parents/guardians. We must therefore stress proper behavior and the consequences for improper behavior in our athletic/activity programs.

A participant that exhibits unsportsmanlike behavior caused by uncontrolled anger or frustration will be removed from that contest and miss the next contest. This includes cursing, verbal threats, or physical confrontation during a contest.

Fighting in any form will not be tolerated. Fighting includes pushing, wrestling, striking or any other aggravated act toward another person. If attacked by another we expect our participants to protect themselves and then back away from the situation. Striking a person, no matter who initiates the situation, will not be considered self-defense. If a participant is involved in this type of situation and acts in a manner other than simply protecting him or herself, He/she will then have been considered to be fighting. If a participant fights, he or she will be removed from the remainder of the current game and held from the next contest.

- **MISSING COMPETITION**

A participant that has received the consequence of missing a contest will travel with the team and sit on the bench, or any other area designated for the team, for that game. For the purpose of these rules, a game is defined as the length of competition normally played on one date. A game in track would be one entire meet and a game in volleyball would be one entire match. A two-day event, such as state/district wrestling or track meets will be considered as one contest.

- **TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, DRUGS**

The use of tobacco products, drugs, or alcohol limits a participant's ability to perform up to his or her potential. If a coach or school administrator confirms that an athlete is guilty of use or possession of tobacco products, the first offense will result in a suspension for 1/10<sup>th</sup> of the team's events. Participants must practice but will not be allowed to participate in any events during this suspension period. A second offense will result in a suspension from all extra-curricular activities for the rest of the school year. If a coach or school administrator confirms a participant is guilty of use or possession of drugs or alcohol, the first offense will result in suspension from 1/10<sup>th</sup> of the team's events. Participants must practice but will not be allowed to participate in any games during this suspension period. A second offense will result in a suspension of 365 calendar days from participating in extra-curricular activities.

- **INJURIES**

It is important that participants inform a coach of any injuries sustained during a practice or contest. In most cases the coaches will be aware of participants that are hurt but situations can happen where the coach might not have noticed an injured athlete. Coaches must be informed of any such cases so that the proper actions are taken.

- **ATHLETIC TRAINER**

West Platte School District contracts the services of an Athletic Trainer. The trainer will be at all home events, setting a priority on where the trainer is most likely needed on dates when there are multiple home events. The trainer will also travel to away high school football games due to the high risk of injury. If there are no home events (or away high school football games), the trainer will be available on the complex for practices.

Participants who have missed practice or school at a doctor's request must have a doctor's release before he/she will be allowed to practice. This is for your safety as well as ours. In certain situations, the school may require a doctor's release before participating.

- **DRESS CODE**

Individual coaches/directors may establish dress codes for their participants on competition days and penalties for not being in compliance. All participants representing West Platte High School are expected to wear appropriate clothes. Participants should dress up when attending award ceremonies. Hats or ball caps are not considered part of appropriate dress. Uniforms should never be worn by any person to whom the uniform was not checked out. Special exceptions may be made at times with the approval of the principal or athletic director. Any clothes or uniforms associated with an athletic activity are not to be worn inside out.

- **TRANSPORTATION**

Participants must ride the school bus to games. Exceptions may be made for the participant to ride with a coach, director, or school administrator in emergency situations such as a doctor or dentist appointments, funerals, and others.

Participants will be expected to ride the school bus back to their home community or to West Platte following a contest. Exceptions will be made only when the participant's parent(s) or legal guardian hand delivers the activity sponsor or coach a note granting the athlete permission to use another means of transportation or if the parent(s) or guardian signs a standard sign-off sheet for alternate means of transportation home from an event. A failure to comply for the first time will result in a punishment decided on by the coach, director, and/or athletic director. A second offense could be a cause for suspension.

- **DEBTS DUE TO LOSS OF EQUIPMENT**

Expensive equipment and uniforms are checked out to the participants for their use in our programs. The participants and their parents are responsible for the proper care and washing procedures of these items. The athlete, or parent/legal guardian, will pay for items that are lost, stolen or damaged through improper use or excessively faded and discolored by improper washing. These measures are necessary to enable the athletic program to continue to outfit participants and provide the safest equipment affordable.

If a participant owes money to the athletic department because of equipment not returned or damaged, he or she will not be allowed to participate in an event of any sport until the money has been paid. The athlete will be allowed to practice, thus giving him or her an appropriate amount of time to pay the fines.

## LETTER POLICIES

Individual coaches/directors may establish lettering policies for the participants in the sports in cooperation with the building administrator. A copy off those policies is on file in the athletic director's office and may be viewed upon request.

- **TRAINING RULES**

Individual coaches/directors may establish training rules for the participants and penalties for those not following those rules in cooperation with the building administrator. These training rules will be giving to the participants when the pre-season practice begins.

- **TATTOOS**

Inappropriate tattoos will be covered before individual participation will be allowed. Inappropriate would be described as obscene, offensive, gang related or pertaining to drugs or alcohol.

- **PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION**

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, everyone is better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to students. The following is an outline of what all parties may anticipate.

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Coach expect from Parents – | 1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.<br>2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.<br>3. Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.   |
| Parents expect from Coach - | 1. Philosophy of the coach.<br>2. Expectations the coach has for your student as well as all the players on the squad.<br>3. Location and times of all practices and contests.<br>4. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.<br>5. Notice of discipline resulting in the denial of your student's participation. |
| Appropriate Topics          | 1. The treatment of your student mentally and physically.<br>2. Ways to help your student improve.<br>3. Concerns about your student's behavior.   |
| Inappropriate Topics        | 1. Playing time.<br>2. Team strategy.<br>3. Play calling.<br>4. Other student-athletes/participants.   |

If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, the following procedure should be followed. Call to set up an appointment with the coach. Do not attempt to confront a coach before, during, or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. If you do not receive a satisfactory resolution you may call the athletic director and set up a meeting with the coach, principal, and athletic director. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined. Please keep in mind that all parties should have the goal of maintaining a positive experience which promotes team values and goals.”

# MISSOURI STATE HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

## RULES and REGULATIONS (\*denotes that band and choir are excluded)

The following rules and regulations are excerpts from the MSHSAA Official Handbook.

- **PARENTAL PERMISSION**

Prior to each year of interscholastic athletic participation, a student shall furnish a statement signed by their parent(s) or legal guardian which grants permission for the student to participate in interscholastic athletics/activities.

- **PHYSICAL EXAMS and INSURANCE \***

Any student that participates in an athletic activity shall be required to provide the school with a physician's certificate that states that the student is physically able to participate in said activity. This should be done no earlier than February 1 of the previous year in order to be accepted as a current physical.

A student will not be allowed to practice or compete in an activity until the school has been provided with verification that he or she have basic athletic insurance coverage.

- **CONDITIONING STANDARDS \***

Each squad must have fourteen days practice on fourteen different days in all sports. Individual athletes must have participated in these fourteen practices prior to the first game. The exception would be if the student was a participant of another school's activity program immediately preceding (within 7 days) coming to West Platte and has had the fourteen days conditioning.

- **SEMESTERS of PARTICIPATION**

A student shall not participate for more than four (4) seasons while in grades 9 through 12 in any interscholastic activity. These will be during the student's first eight (8) semesters of attendance in high school beginning with is or her entrance in the ninth grade and the eighth semester will follow immediately the seventh semester.

A student is eligible for only two (2) semesters in both the seventh and eighth grades beginning with the first semester of entrance in each grade. A student who is repeating a grade is not eligible.

- **AMATEUR and AWARD STANDARDS**

Awards: A student may accept an award for participation in an athletic contest, or for athletic honors or recognition of athletic achievements in the interscholastic program. Awards presented to students shall meet the following criteria.

- a. A student may receive the following symbolic awards: unattached school letters or emblems, medals, ribbons, trophies, certificates, etc.
- b. A student shall not have accepted or competed for the following types of awards: services, cash or gift certificates.
- c. A student may receive an award of merchandise items (one or more) which together do not exceed a total value of \$250.00. The total value of all items shall be calculated using the manufacturer's suggested retail price for each item.
- d. A student may receive an award of commemorative jewelry of a value greater than the merchandise award limit in recognition of achievements in the school athletic program only if purchased and awarded by the school.
- e. A banquet sponsored by other than the school shall not constitute a violation if arranged with approval of the school administrator.
- f. An award presented to a student in recognition of achievements in the school athletic program by a non-school organization or individual shall be approved in advance by the school administration. Editor's



Note: No award presented shall contain artwork or sponsorship contrary to the standards of the interscholastic program.

g. This standard shall not prevent a student from signing an agreement which binds him or her to play only for a particular team or an athletic letter-of-intent with a university or college.

- **AGE STANDARDS**

A student shall not have reached the age of 19 prior to July 1<sup>st</sup> preceding the opening of school. If a student reached the age of 19 prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>, the student may be considered eligible for that school year.

To be eligible for junior high competition against teams all in a particular junior high grade classification, the student shall not have reached the following ages prior to July 1<sup>st</sup> preceding the opening of school: Grade 7, 14 years and grade 8, 15 years.

If a student does not meet the age standard for a particular grade classification, that student may compete on a team of a higher grade classification. Seventh and eighth grade students will not compete with or against students in grade 10 or above except in cases where they attain the age of 15 prior to July 1<sup>st</sup> preceding the opening of school and their school does not sponsor a separate ninth grade team in the sport at issue, or where they attain the age of 16 years prior to July 1<sup>st</sup> preceding the opening of school.

- **NON-SCHOOL COMPETITION**

During the sport season a student represents his or her school by competing in an interscholastic athletic contest. The athlete shall neither practice nor compete as a member of a non-school team or as an individual participant in organized non-school competition in the same sport. However, he or she may compete in organized non-school competition in other sports in which MSHSAA member schools compete interscholastically under the following conditions: no school time is missed to compete and practice for or travel to the site of such non-school competition unless the absence is approved in advance by the school administrator; and the student will not practice for or compete in the non-school competition on the same date he or she practices or competes for the school.

- **TRANSFER of ENROLLMENT STANDARDS**

The following standards are for the purpose of assuring fairness to all students;

- Students who transfer for reasons other than promotion are ineligible for 365 days unless their cases meet the standards under the following exceptions.
- If there is a corresponding change of residence of parent(s) or legal guardian from the district where a student has been in attendance to the new district, the student will be eligible. A transfer of residence during the school year for the primary purpose of making a participant eligible shall not be accepted. Guardianship shall be recognized under this standard only if appointed for the primary purpose of making a participant eligible shall not meet this standard. A change of residence under this rule shall consist of the moving of all household properties to the new address and the parent(s) and student actually living there. A second family residence shall not meet the requirements of this standard.
- The Board of Control of the MSHSAA may grant a student eligibility who does not meet the Transfer Standards when sufficient evidence is provided to show that it was necessary for the student to transfer because of unforeseen, unavoidable or unusual circumstances. These circumstances include, but are not limited to: broken home conditions, death of parent(s) or guardian, abandonment, and provided the transfer was not for athletic reasons and there was no undue influence.

- A student must be eligible in all respects at the school from which he or she is transferring to be eligible at the school to which he or she is transferring.
- Even though a student transfers schools under circumstance which do not meet the terms of the Transfer of Enrollment Standards, he or she still may be granted eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics if the student qualifies under the following terms and conditions; (1) the student whose name has been included in a school eligibility roster at any level for a given sport during the 12 calendar months preceding the date of such transfer can be eligible only for sub-varsity competition in that sport. (2) The student may have unrestricted eligibility in all other sports in which his or her name has not appeared on a school eligibility roster. Eligibility can be granted provided the athletic eligibility is approved by the principals of both the sending and receiving schools; the Board of Control and provided there is no athletic purpose involved in the transfer. (approval must be granted in the special MSHSAA form provided).
  - **LIMITS ON CONTACT** (excludes band and choir)– Junior High and High School: A limit of 20 contact days is allowed per sport, per gender during the summer. Sports contact between any coach for a particular sport and gender and any student enrolled at the member school or who will be enrolled in and attending the member school that fall will count as one day of contact toward the limit of 20 days for that sport. Weights and conditioning is not considered contact for the purpose of this rule.
  - **College/University-Conducted Events for Individual Students During the School Year:** Students may participate in athletic recruiting or instruction events that are directly sponsored by a college or university, conducted by that college or university’s coaching staff for the sport concerned, and held on its campus, under the following provisions.
    - a. Compliance with Governing Body: These events shall adhere to the rules and regulations for such offerings as outlined by the governing body of which the college or university is a member (NCAA, NAIA, NJCAA, etc.).
    - b. College/University-Conducted Recruiting Events: Events in which one or more students participate in physical activity including individual or group drills and/or limited scrimmages (not complete games) for the purpose of revealing, demonstrating or displaying the student’s athletic abilities in a specific sport to the coaching staff of the organizing college/university for recruiting purposes. During the academic year, no school time may be missed to travel to or participate in the event, without the prior approval of a school administrator
    - c. College/University-Conducted Individual Instruction Events: Instructional clinic or group lesson events which involve individual instruction in a specific sport that is provided by college or university coaching staff and include activities designed to improve overall skills and general knowledge in the respective sport. The primary emphasis shall be on teaching individual player skills, and there is no complete game competition other than limited scrimmage situations. During the academic year, no school time may be missed to travel to or participate in the event, without the prior approval of a school administrator. The student does not have to be accompanied by an approved school coach during the respective interscholastic sport season.

Each individual school has the authority to set more restrictive citizenship standards and to judge students under those standards.

Any member school has the authority to set any restrictions that it deems advisable.

- **Guidelines for Non-Traditional Students who Desire Eligibility to Participate in MSHSAA Activities/Athletics**

1. Non-traditional students must enroll and attend two classes (1.0 credits) each semester. Pursuant MSHSAA By-Law 2.3.4.c, these two classes must be seat-time classes taken within the school building they desire eligibility with.
2. Non-traditional students shall attend the school within their attendance area in which the student resides per West Platte board policy.
3. Upon initial enrollment the building principal or designee will review past classes, academic history, credits, logs, attendance, transcripts, etc. to determine “prior semester” credit earned to determine eligibility status.
4. The building principal or designee will review current semester classes enrolled in to approve and validate “outside” courses/credits are sufficient in allowing the nontraditional student to meet the 80% rule.
5. Non-traditional students will be provided clear confirmation of West Platte close date of the semester: this same timeline for completion of courses will also be in place for nontraditional students outside courses.
6. Non-traditional students must meet the essential eligibility standards, including the citizenship standard, semesters rule, age rule, etc. as traditional students.
7. If the non-traditional student participates in Band or Choir, they must be enrolled in the associated class in order to participate in music activities.
8. All non-traditional students will be held to the same policy and standards as traditional students set forth by West Platte student and activity handbooks.
9. Once enrolled non-traditional students must enroll in all sequential semesters to maintain eligibility.
  - It should be noted some programs offered by West Platte are cut sports/activities with a tryout process. Non-traditional students will have every opportunity as traditional students to make teams in cut sports through the try-out process but no student is guaranteed a spot on any athletic team

***NOTE:** If you have questions regarding any rules, regulations or procedures concerning the athletic program, please contact the respective coaches, the athletic director or school administration.*

***NOTE:** Any of these rules may be superseded by board policies or a MSHSAA rule change.*

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian:

The West Platte R-II Board of Education has adopted the Athletic and Activities handbook proposed by the principal, athletic director and coaches of West Platte High School. We feel that all parents, as well as participants, should read and understand this handbook. All participants will have to abide by these rules and regulations if they wish to participate in athletics or activities at West Platte. Should the policies of the West Platte Board of Education change, these changes will become effective immediately.

We are requesting that both students and parent(s)/legal guardian sign below for verification that this handbook has been read. **STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE UNTIL THIS IS RETURNED WITH SIGNATURES**

Please return to: Mr. Brad Basel  
Athletic Director  
West Platte R-II High School  
1103 Washington Street  
Weston, MO 64098

Students Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Guardian