

WEKIVA HIGH SCHOOL



ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES

POLICY AND REFERENCE GUIDE

The Wekiva High School Athletic manual is a small reference guide for student-athletes and parents concerning the policies that govern athletics at WHS. This meeting provides a forum for students and their parents, school staff and other adult leaders to openly discuss a variety of issues, such as sportsmanship, school policy, risk of injury and health lifestyles, including the use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs. Through such involvement, the opportunity for optimal growth and development of students is enhanced.

This assembly also represents an extraordinary opportunity to foster a dialogue among students, their parents and school staff – a dialogue that lays the groundwork for real collaboration towards healthier youth and strong communities.

The coach of an athletic team is primarily responsible for the compliance by his/her squad members to the rules, regulations and policies governing athletics at Wekiva High School. The Athletic Director will administer these rules and regulations as they relate to inter squad and coach relationships.

Interscholastic athletics is a voluntary program. Students are not obligated to participate and participation is not required for graduation. Thus, competition in high school athletics is a privilege and not a right. Accompanying this privilege is the responsibility to conform to standards established for the high school athletic program. This privilege may be revoked if the athlete fails or refuses to comply with the rules outlined in this guide and the rules and policies set forth by the coaches of each sport.

Please be cognizant that the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSA) is the governing body for the state of Florida and the National Federation for High School is the governing body for national high school athletics. The rules and regulations set forth from these organizations are included with all rules of the School and policies of each sport. Issues of eligibility due to grades, transfer status and/or age are handled by the FHSA.

PRESEASON MEETING GOALS

- Introduce student activity participants, their parents, coaches, athletic trainers and sponsors to each other in a relaxed, cooperative atmosphere.
- Provide information about activities, insurance, physicals, district policies, program philosophy, etc.
- Provide information on state high school athletic/activity association, school and team rules.
- Provide specific guidelines, rules and consequences of rule violations.
- Provide information concerning practice, game and tournament schedules.
- Warn student activity participants and their parents of the potential for physical injury.
- Promote importance of ongoing honest communication.
- Create awareness about tobacco, alcohol and other drug-use issues, ethics and sportsmanship and how they relate to sports and other activities.
- Involve parents in tobacco, alcohol and other drug education and prevention efforts.
- Develop a bond of mutual respect, cooperation and shared responsibility.
- Involve parents in the development of student performances on and off the playing field.

PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIP

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 benefit to 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 the players on the squad.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e., fees special equipment, off-season conditioning.
5. Procedure 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 schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.
4. Medical or physical limitations of your child.

As your children become involved in the athlete programs 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 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 your child not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the 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 position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN TO DISCUSS WITH A COACH, THIS IS THE PROCEDURE YOU SHOULD FOLLOW:

1. Call and set up an appointment.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director. He/she will set up the meeting for you.
3. Please 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. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

WHAT CAN A PARENT DO IF THE MEETING WITH THE COACH DOES NOT PROVIDE A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION?

1. Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director and/or Assistant Principal to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.
3. Every effort should be made to resolve the problem at the high school before addressing your concerns with the District Director of Athletics.

SPORTSMANSHIP

As members of the WHS program, students, coaches and parents are expected to demonstrate proper respect for each other, opponents, opposing coaches, teachers, officials and spectators. Student athletes and coaches are expected to exhibit the highest level of conduct, both on and off the fields, as they are at all times a representative of their team, school and community.

Coach or athlete ejections come with sanctions/fines from the Florida High School Athletic Association. The ejection of a coach can only be appealed by the Principal or Athletic Director. All fines are the responsibility of the coach or athlete that got ejected. Any fines will be placed not paid by the parent or student will be placed on the student's obligation.

Requirements to Participate in Athletics:

- Must have an Orange County Public School medical form and physical form filled out for the current year. Physicals from last year do not carry over. **A new physical must be obtained yearly.**
- Must maintain a **2.0** cumulative GPA
- Grades can only be calculated at the semesters end.

Eligibility of Transfer Students within Orange County:

Any student that plays a sport at another Orange County High School is not eligible to play until they have received clearance from the FHSAA and Wekiva Athletic Department.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Year 1: All 9th Grade students are eligible upon enrollment for the first semester

All 9th Grade students must maintain a GPA of 2.0 or higher for the first semester to be eligible for the second semester

Year 2: 10th grade students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher for the semester to gain eligibility

Year 3: 11th grade students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher for the semester to gain eligibility

Year 4: 12th grade students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher for the semester to gain eligibility

TRANSPORTATION

All team members are expected to ride with the team to and from contests, games and competitions. Busses are arranged for all teams. With prior permission of the coach, parents may drive their child home after a contest by signing the parent authorization form. Students are not permitted to ride home after contests with other students, parents and/or friends.

FUNDRAISING

Effective fundraising is the backbone of a successful athletic program. We strongly encourage ALL parents to participate in the fundraising process to ensure a quality experience for our student athletes.

PRACTICE

Athletic participation requires commitment from coaches, student athletes and parents. If an athlete misses three practices during a season, a coach has the right to remove the athlete from the team. Athletes must also recognize that being late to practice is unacceptable. Frequent tardiness is grounds for reduced playing time and eventually removal from the team.

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

Athletes are issued uniforms and equipment for each team. All equipment and uniforms must be returned to the head coach within seven days of the last game/competition. A student will be charged for the replacement/damage cost of the uniforms and grades will not be released until all obligations are met.

**Since research indicates a student involved in extra-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 success after high school. We hope the information provided within this pamphlet makes both your child's and your experience with Wekiva High School athletic programs less stressful and more enjoyable.