Fountain Hills Unified School District

Athletic Handbook

**FOREWORD**

The FHUSD Athletic Handbook contains the rules and regulations that govern the interscholastic program at FHUSD.

The handbook has two major purposes:

1. To describe the philosophy and policies of the FHUSD Athletic Department.
2. To provide a means for promoting communication and guidelines among parents, athletes, coaches and the athletic department.

Every student enrolled in FHUSD has the opportunity to participate in the following Arizona Interscholastic Association approved sports:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Season** | **Boys** | **Girls** | **Middle School** |
| Fall | Cross Country FootballSwim | Cross Country Indoor Volleyball SwimCheer | Girls Volleyball Football CheerCo-ed Soccer Co-ed Golf |
| Winter | Basketball Soccer Wrestling | Basketball Soccer Wrestling Cheer | Baseball SoftballCross Country |
| Spring | Baseball GolfTrack and Field Golf | Softball GolfTrack and Field Beach Volleyball | Girls Basketball Boys Basketball Wrestling |

# Athletic Philosophy

The FHUSD Athletic Department promotes individual dignity, personal development and social interaction through its athletic programs. Furthermore, the Athletic Department will do all it can to provide a quality athletic program for all student athletes.

The FHUSD Athletic Department does not measure success simply by the number of wins and losses or the number of trophies won in a season or year. Success at FHUSD is measured by the degree to which we live up to the principles and ideals we instill in all participants.

The FHUSD Athletic Department believes that education comes first. Student athletes must remember that the primary reason for attending FHUSD is to be part of a first-class education program. Student athletics should NEVER take precedence over education.

To fully utilize the potential of athletics for educational purposes, the FHUSD Athletic Department will be conducted in accordance with the following:

Considered an integral part of a student’s educational experience.

Supplements rather than serves as a substitute for physical education and intramurals.

Adheres to all Fountain Hills Unified School District and Arizona Interscholastic Association administrative procedures.

Conducted by professionally prepared personnel who foster the welfare and safety of all participants and act as professional adult problem solvers.

# Objectives

With the following goals and objectives in mind, the FHUSD Athletic Department seeks to contribute to the growth, development and education of the young men and women who attend our schools.

### HEALTH AND FITNESS

* Each student should become aware of the importance and value of a physically fit body, how to reach an acceptable fitness level and how to maintain that level.
* Each student should realize that a healthy body increases the probability of effective learning.
* Each student should understand the important role of healthy mental attitudes and emotional stability in effective athletic performance.
* Each student will be provided the opportunity to develop his/her athletic skills to their fullest potential.

### SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND LIFE-LONG SKILLS

* Students will follow rules and respect individual differences.
* Through principles of justice, fair play and good sportsmanship, each student will develop good citizenship and respect for rules and authority.
* The athletic programs will seek to promote community interest and involvement in school activities by providing enjoyable experiences for participants and spectators.
* Each student will realize the benefits of self-esteem, self-confidence, a desire to achieve and a commitment to excellence.
* Through athletic participation, each student will become aware of the principles of responsibility, and that we are all responsible for our own actions.
* Athletic programs will develop leadership qualities that exist in each of our students.
* Each student will realize the value and advantages of developing self-discipline.
* Each student will become aware of the importance of setting goals and dedicating oneself to reaching those goals by making the necessary sacrifices through hard work.

# Communication

The Athletic Department at FHUSD believes that open communication among athletes, parents, coaches and the Athletic Department is vital to the success of our programs.

It is important to understand that there are also many times when things do not go the way a student athlete or stakeholder wishes. At these times, discussions with coaches are encouraged.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

1. Treatment of the student-athlete.
2. Ways to help the student-athlete improve.
3. Concerns about the student-athlete’s behavior.

Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:

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

Athlete and stakeholders must follow the below process in regard to athletic issues:

1. Set up an appointment with the coaching staff. Coaches are not expected to have conversations with stakeholders immediately after competition or practices

*If no resolution is found….*

1. Set up an appointment with the athletic director with the coach present

*If no resolution is found….*

1. Set up an appointment with the assistant principal with athletic director and coach

*If no resolution is found….*

1. Set up an appointment with the principal

*Principal’s decision is final*

# Playing Time Policy

The following criteria have been established for the playing time of athletes:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Varsity Level Programs | The philosophy of the varsity program is to place the best combination of athletes into a game or match situation as determined by the head coach. Playing time at this level is not guaranteed. |
| Junior Varsity, Freshman and Middle School Levels | The philosophy of the junior varsity, freshman and middle school levels is to emphasize the development of skills for each athlete. Playing time is not equal nor expected. Seniors are not permitted to play at the junior varsity level as per the AIA Constitution and Bylaws. |

# Participation Requirements

The athletic program is organized and conducted in accordance with the following guidelines to utilize the potential of athletics as an educational experience:

* + It is the responsibility of the Fountain Hills Unified School District administration and coaching staff to understand, represent and enforce the Arizona Interscholastic Association Bylaws and the District’s athletic philosophy, code of ethics, policies, rules and regulations.
	+ No student will participate in practice or contests without a current physical examination, proof of insurance, a completed Register My Athlete account and having met all academic eligibility requirements.
	+ Fountain Hills Unified School District students who participate in athletics will be required to pay an annual participation fee for each sport. This fee is not to be refunded for any reason after the first regular season competition has taken place. Paying this fee does not guarantee playing time.
	+ No practice, contest, chalk talk, film sessions, or any other activity are permitted on Sunday during the school year.

**AIA Regulations for Participation**

You are eligible under AIA standards if:

* + You are under 19 years of age prior to September 1.
	+ You enter freshman year of a high school for the first time.
	+ You transfer from out of state and your parents or legal guardian move with you to your new school district.
	+ You remain at the school in which you are enrolled and your parents or legal guardian move out of that school district.
	+ You currently are enrolled and passing all classes.
	+ Following initial enrollment, you have not exceeded eight (8) consecutive semesters.
	+ You do not accept or enter into any agreement for the purpose of later accepting any compensation or thing of value for, or in recognition of, athletic abilities except your school

athletic letter, small medals, certificates, plaques or emblems.

NOTE: Anytime you transfer from one high school, whatever the circumstances, your AD should be consulted immediately.

*There are a few exceptions to the above rules. There also are additional requirements. Consult the Athletic Director for additional information.*

### Class Attendance

* + The student athlete’s first responsibility at FHUSD will be his/her classes.
	+ Participants are responsible for all assignments and assessments that are missed due to absences for home and/or away events. Previously assigned work that is due the day of an away event must be turned in prior to departure. Assessment or assignments that are missed due to an away event must be made up the next school day or as arranged by the teacher.
	+ Participants must be in attendance for **the entire school day** in order to participate in activities held on that day unless otherwise approved by the Athletic Director in special circumstances.

### DRUGS, ALCOHOL and DISCIPLINE

Any athlete who is in possession of drugs, alcohol, paraphernalia or look-alikes may be removed from any sports team of which they are currently a member for the remainder of the season

A second offense will result in ineligibility to participate in any sport at FHUSD for a full calendar year.

* + This is in addition to any discipline consequences through PBIS. There shall be no:
	+ Stealing.
	+ Vandalism of school, private or community property.
	+ Lying.
	+ Fighting.
	+ Verbal, sexual or physical harassment or hazing of anyone as perceived by the victim.

The Athletic Director has the authority to make participation decisions based on disciplinary issues.

### ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

**\*\* Insert board policy here contingent of proposed updates\*\***

**HOME SCHOOL/PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS**

* + Only students enrolled in Fountain Hills Unified School District or those registered with Maricopa County as home school students, and who meet all eligibility requirements may participate in extracurricular activities.
	+ Students attending private schools or attending a virtual academy other than FHVA are not eligible to participate in extracurricular activities.

### FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS

* + Foreign exchange students are eligible with reference to residence, provided they have not graduated, are not too old, and meet all other eligibility requirements of the AIA.
	+ Policy applies only to foreign exchange students on exchange programs approved by the Arizona Interscholastic Association.

**Athletic Director**

The Athletic Director shall be the coordinator of all athletic activities and shall be the representative of the principal in athletic matters involving the school. He/she shall have the delegated authority and responsibility to fulfill the following duties and responsibilities:

* + - Schedule all interscholastic games not scheduled by the Region.
		- Arrange for transportation for all away games.
		- Arrange all details of home games.
		- Arrange to receive all visiting teams by advising visiting coaches of details, such as time of game, officials, etc.
		- Take care of seating of the students, band members, and adults at the games.
		- Arrange for operation of the scoreboard and the chains for football, also scoring tables and clocks for basketball, wrestling and soccer.
		- Handle newspaper publicity, advertising, and programs.
		- Arrange all details for the sale and collection of tickets at athletic contests.
		- Work with the coaches to take care of details that are not the coaches’ responsibility.
		- Solicit and summarize all athletic requisitions and POs.
		- Work with administration in preparation of the athletic budget.
		- Any other duties deemed necessary for carrying out the athletic program assigned by the administration.

## Head Coach

The head coach of the varsity team will assist with coordinating the high school and the middle school programs, including hiring all coaches within their program, pending clearances. The head coach reports directly to the Principal and Athletic Director and will conduct all aspects of the program within the guidelines of the Fountain Hills Unified School District Athletic Philosophy and the Professional Code of Ethics. The high school head coach will have the following specific responsibilities:

* + Perform administrative duties as required by state, region, district and building athletic regulations.
	+ Organize, schedule, conduct and communicate practice sessions.
	+ Maintain a thorough knowledge of specific sport rules.
	+ Attend AIA pre-season rules interpretation meetings.
	+ Provide supervision of participants before and after all practices and contests, as well as on the bus.
	+ See that all doors are secured after practice or a game.
	+ Arrange in cooperation with the Athletic Director necessary transportation and finances.
	+ Organize the coaching staff so that assistant coaches have specific delegated duties.
	+ Prepare, justify, and submit proposed budgetary requirements for the assigned sport to the building Athletic Director.
	+ Operate within the current fiscal budget allowances for the sport.
	+ Be responsible for the care of district equipment, supplies, and physical properties.
	+ Keep accurate record of the distribution and collection of all school district provided equipment and uniforms.
	+ Communicate effectively with staff, students, parents, administrators, the press, etc.
	+ Explain registration, eligibility and insurance requirements to the athletes and stakeholders.
	+ Perform other duties relating to his/her athletic program as assigned by the Athletic Director.
	+ Use appropriate judgment while using social media to represent our teams, athletic department and community.

**TRY-OUTS**

* + Tryout criteria is determined by the head coach.
	+ Some teams may not have tryouts based on the nature of the sport and/or participation numbers.
	+ All student-athletes must be cleared via the registration process in order to be eligible to tryout.
	+ Coaches may only publicly post who has made the team as opposed to who has not.

**DURING SEASON**

GENERAL

* + Parent Meeting Night is mandatory at least two weeks prior to the start of the season, scheduled through the Athletic Director.
	+ Any time there are changes to a roster the Athletic Director is to be notified.
	+ Assist in the care and security of equipment, practice area, and locker room.
	+ Eligibility and attendance records are to be kept confidential.

FACILITIES

* + Coaches are expected to provide adequate supervision in our facilities at all times. A coach should be the last one out of the locker rooms and building/practice areas.
	+ Make sure the locker room and building/practice areas are clean and secure before leaving.

SUPERVISION

* + Coaches are responsible for their athletes during practices, games, on buses and after practices until the athletes leave campus.

TRANSPORTATION

* + Coaches will ride the bus with the athletes.
	+ Coaches who will need class coverage should submit that for the entire season to the office one week in advance.
	+ Students are encouraged to ride the bus home from games. If necessary to ride home with a parent, a travel release form needs to be approved by the Athletic Director 48 hours before the competition.
	+ Parents are the only ones who can take their child home.
	+ In times of need or low roster numbers, coaches should fully expect to use a district vehicle to transport teams to competition.

EARLY RELEASE FOR AWAY GAMES

* + A travel roster should be provided to the Athletic Director, who will email and notify the teaching staff and adjust attendance in PowerSchool to reflect an activity.

SCORE REPORTING

* + For all games, report scores to the Athletic Director in a timely manner.

INJURIES

* + In case of an injury during a game or practice, please contact the athletic trainer or have someone escort the student athlete to the athletic trainer immediately.

LETTERING POLICY

* + Each head coach should develop criteria for lettering including, but not limited to:
		- Practice attendance, game attendance, game participation and academic status.
		- Communicate lettering policy with student athletes and stakeholders.

**END OF SEASON**

END OF SEASON SUMMARY

* + Head coaches will be evaluated by the Athletic Director.
	+ Coaching contracts are year to year positions. Renewal of a coaching contract is not a guarantee.
	+ Be prepared to discuss any needs for your program.

BANQUETS

* + Each sport is responsible for the planning of their own awards ceremony.
	+ The Athletic Department does not provide awards beyond varsity letters/pins.
	+ Banquets are highly encouraged, but not mandatory.