

Lee's Summit

R-7



2016-2017

Athletic/Activities Handbook

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WELCOME

To R-7 ACTIVITY AND ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

Welcome to the R-7 Activity/Athletic Programs! We are excited that you have chosen to participate in one of our fine co-curricular activities. Statistics show that involvement in school programs increases a student's chances of academic success and social adjustment.

Since research indicates a student involved in co-curricular activities has a greater chance of success during adulthood, these programs have been established. Many of the character traits required to be successful participants are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope the information provided within this handbook makes both your student's and your experience with the R-7 Activity/Athletic Programs less stressful and more enjoyable. Your decision to take advantage of this portion of our program will be educational, rewarding, and challenging. The R-7 School District encourages you to take advantage of as many opportunities as your time and talent will permit. We do not encourage specialization in one sport or activity; rather, we would encourage you to experience a variety of sports as well as other school activities. Naturally, due to conflicts in seasons, practice times, schedules, etc., some choices will have to be made by you. We support you as you strive to grow emotionally, mentally, socially, and physically through our activities and athletics.

Activity/Athletic Program Goal

Student activities and athletics are an integral part of the total secondary educational program because they provide experiences that will help students to acquire additional knowledge and skills, plus they help students gain the attributes of good citizenship.

Activity/Athletic Program Philosophy

We believe that student participation in any part of our activity/athletic programs is a privilege which carries with it responsibilities to the school, to the activity, to the student body, to the community, and to the student participant. Activity/Athletic participation represents a year-round commitment that will help to develop the student physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally.

PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES

Activity/Athletic Commitment

We believe that school activities outside of the regular school day enhance the education of each student. We encourage you to commit yourself to being the best you can be both in and out of the classroom.

As a student participant, you are in school to secure the best secondary education you are capable of achieving. If the value of activities is to be achieved, certain responsibilities are expected of the student participant.

Because you are in the public eye, your personal conduct always must be above reproach; you have an obligation to create a favorable image and gain the respect of your teammates, the R-7 student body, and the Lee's Summit community.

You are also expected to:

Strive to achieve sound citizenship and desirable social traits, including emotional control, honesty, cooperation, dependability, and respect for others and their abilities;

Maintain academic citizenship and eligibility standards as established by the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) and R-7 Schools;

Learn the spirit of hard work and sacrifice;

Learn to attain physical fitness through good health habits;

Desire to excel to the limits of your potential;

Show respect for both authority and property;

Be willing to accept the leadership role that is instilled through the activity/athletic programs.

MSHSAA ACTIVITY/ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FEES - HIGH SCHOOL

The R-7 athletic/activity program goal reflects that student activities and athletics are an integral part of the total secondary educational program because they provide experiences that will help students to acquire additional knowledge and skills, plus they help students gain the attributes of good citizenship.

Students wishing to participate in any MSHSAA sponsored activity will be charged \$50 for yearly participation. In addition, students wishing to participate in a MSHSAA sponsored sport will be charged a \$50 participation fee. A maximum participation fee of \$100/family will be charged for participating in activities. Also a maximum participation fee of \$100/family will be charged for participating in interscholastic sports. Please consult your building assistant principal/activities director for any questions or concerns regarding the participation fee.

The following guidelines will assist with implementation for the collection of fees:

1. The student will not be allowed to participate in an activity/contest until the fee is paid in full.

2. If a student is cut from a team but has already paid the fee, he/she will be reimbursed.
3. If a student quits or is suspended from a team or performing group after the first scheduled event, no refund will be granted.
4. If a student is injured during or after the first scheduled game so that he/she can no longer compete, the fee will not be refunded.
5. Other extenuating circumstances, such as a student transferring to another district prior to the first activity or season or a student being placed on homebound, may be considered by the building administrator for reimbursement.
6. Students qualifying for the free lunch program will be exempt from the activity participation fee. Students qualifying for the reduced lunch program will pay 50% of the participation fee. Student/parent should contact the building principal to verify their free or reduced lunch status. Each case will be evaluated independently.
7. Activity fees will be collected at registration or thru the main building administrative office.
8. Reimbursements must be requested by May 30 of the current school year.

***SEE LISTED MSHSAA ACTIVITIES/SPORTS BELOW**

ACTIVITIES	SPORTS
Bands	Baseball
Orchestras	Basketball B/G
Choirs	Cross Country B/G
Marching Band	Football
Cheerleading	Golf B/G
Dance Team	Soccer B/G
Flag Guard/Winter Guard	Softball
Speech/Debate	Swim/Dive B/G
Scholar Team	Tennis B/G
	Track & Field B/G
	Volleyball
	Wrestling

Basic Participation Policies

1. Students are free to make their own selections as to activities in which they wish to participate. It is the R-7 policy that students facing a conflict between two R-7 sponsored activities will be given a choice of which to attend. Certain school activities (to be determined by the administrators) will have priority.
2. 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 unless the head coach (of the sport that was dropped) signs a release card and the head coach of the new sport involved accepts the athlete. **EVERY ATHLETE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THIS POLICY.** Any activity performance group member who quits cheer, dance, or flags before the season is completed could be ineligible for tryouts for another activity group for a period up to 365 days.

3. All students will be transported to and from respective activities via school transportation. The exceptions to this are: (1) when parents make a request to transport their student and contact the head coach personally to seek permission; (2) when parents make a request to the head coach for the student, who is of legal driving age, to drive himself/herself. In both exceptions, students/athletes are NOT to transport other students/athletes. Both cases require parent completion of the "R-7 District Transportation Release" form.
4. If it is necessary to be absent from practice, the student is expected to obtain permission from the head coach prior to the scheduled practice.
5. **Students must be in attendance a minimum of the last four class periods of the day to participate in any activity scheduled for the day. Exceptions are granted with administrative approval only.** If students come to school and leave during the day for health reasons, they may **not** return or participate that day in activities without administrative approval. Each individual coach/sponsor has the authority to set more **restrictive** attendance requirements.
6. In the event that truancy or suspension of a student takes place, the student will not be eligible for participation until he/she has fulfilled the disciplinary requirements established by the administration.
7. In the event that a student is assigned an afternoon detention period as the result of a classroom problem, he/she is not allowed to use the excuse of "I have practice, so I can't stay." **THE CLASSROOM OBLIGATION ALWAYS COMES FIRST.**
The possession or use of alcohol, tobacco, or non-prescriptive drugs is known to be detrimental to the individual as well as the team he/she represents; therefore, disciplinary action will be taken. **This is a year-round commitment.**
8. Students are to understand that social media (Twitter, Facebook, etc.) are powerful tools which may be either positive or negative depending on how they are used. Students are expected to be respectful and responsible when using these tools. Derogatory or negative language directed at teammates, coaches, teachers, or other students will not be tolerated. Posting of pictures or statements depicting violations of policies or indicating knowledge of violations subjects students to potential consequences.

Citizenship Expectations

Students who represent a school in interscholastic activities must be credible citizens. Those students whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon themselves or their school are not considered "credible citizens." Conduct shall be satisfactory in accord with the standards of good discipline [MSHSAA By-law 2.2, Citizenship Requirements].

Credible citizens are:

1. Students who adhere to the R-7 chemical use and possession policy (see p. 8).
2. Students who do not attend parties where minors possess or use alcohol and/or possess or use non-prescriptive drugs.
3. Students who are in good standing with the judicial and/or legal system.
4. Students who are not under school suspension as a result of disciplinary consequences.
5. Students who choose not to be present where illegal activities are occurring.

Each individual school and/or coach has the authority to set more restrictive citizenship stan-

dards and shall have the authority to judge its students under those standards [MSHSAA By-law 2.2, Citizenship Requirements].

CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Students who represent a school in interscholastic activities must be creditable citizens and judged so by the proper authority. Those students whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon themselves or their schools are not considered "creditable citizens." Conduct shall be satisfactory in accord with the standards of good discipline.

a. Law Enforcement: A student who commits an act for which charges may be or have been filed by law enforcement authorities under any municipal ordinance, misdemeanor or felony statute shall not be eligible until all proceedings with the legal system have been concluded and any penalty (i.e. restitution, community service, counseling, etc.) has been satisfied. If law enforcement authorities determine that charges will not be filed, eligibility will be contingent upon local school policies. Moving traffic offenses shall not affect eligibility, unless they involve drugs, alcohol, or injuries to others. After a student has completed all court appearances and penalties, and has satisfied all special conditions of probation and remains under general probation only, local school authorities shall determine eligibility.

b. Local School:

1. A student who violates a local school policy is ineligible until completion of the prescribed school penalties.

2. The eligibility of a student who is serving detention or in-school suspension shall be determined by local authorities.

3. A student shall not be considered eligible while servicing an out-of-school suspension.

4. A 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.

5. If a student misses class(es) without being excused by the principal, the student shall not be considered eligible on that date. Further, the student cannot be certified eligible to participate on any subsequent date until the student attends a full day of classes.

6. Each individual school has the authority to set more restrictive citizenship standards and shall have the authority and responsibility to judge its students under those standards.

7. Each school shall diligently and completely investigate any issue that could affect student eligibility.

c. Student Responsibility: Each student is responsible to notify the school of any and all situations that would affect his/her eligibility under the above standards. If the student does not notify the school of the situation prior to the school's discovery, then the student shall be ineligible for up to 365 days from discovery, pending review by the Board of Directors.

R-7 Citizenship Violation Consequences. Non-credible citizenship may result in disciplinary action. These actions may include parental contact, one-on-one conferences, extra athletic conditioning, benching, non-participation in interscholastic games, and/or a percentage of the interscholastic season withheld. **Ultimately**, removal from participation and/or the team can occur. A student shall not be considered eligible while under suspension. Students/parents should have

written citizenship expectations and consequences from those R-7 coaches who set more restrictive standards per MSHSAA by law 2.2 and the R-7 Citizenship Expectations policy [page 4].

Conflict Resolution

When observing improper behavior or problems with individual team/squad members, the best solutions are ones that address a problem at the time it is observed or occurs. Students should practice the following two-step method.

1. Talk to the person (one-on-one) about what she/he is doing and why the offending behavior should be stopped.
2. If the problem is not solved, consult the staff advisor. It is best to stop the problem immediately by handling it informally on a person-to-person level while it is still a small matter. Do not let unresolved problems turn into a clash that will harm team unity.

Student Accountability for Equipment

In order to give the students a sense of responsibility and an appreciation of their equipment, student athletes will be held accountable for the abuse or loss of it. **ANY EQUIPMENT LOST OR STOLEN MUST BE PAID FOR BY THE STUDENT IN WHOSE NAME IT WAS ISSUED.**

Adherence to the following guidelines will reduce the chances for lost or stolen equipment.

1. Do not exchange or loan any of the equipment checked out to you to another teammate. If exchange is warranted, clear it on your checkout card by having the coach make the adjustments.
2. Except when you are in visual contact, keep your locker closed and LOCKED at all times. This includes when you are in the shower. School and personal equipment and belongings should be locked up at all times.
3. Any loss of equipment should be reported immediately to the head coach, rather than waiting until the end of the season.
4. Any protective equipment that does not fit properly or that has any defective parts should be reported to a coach immediately. Do not wear the equipment until the necessary adjustments have been made. This is for your protection.
5. No equipment may be checked out to an athlete in any sport if the athlete owes equipment or fees to a previous sport.
6. Students must sign for items checked out.
7. Students must pay in full for items requiring payment before that item will be issued.
8. Student participants/athletes may not compete interscholastically if equipment or fines are owed to another activity or sport.
9. It is against MSHSAA regulations to wear, use, or be seen in official school uniforms unless involved directly in a school-sponsored event or interscholastic contest. Therefore, any school uniforms seen being worn outside of the above participation guidelines is a MSHSAA violation and should be reported to a coach or the athletic/activity department. The R-7 athletic and activity departments adhere strictly to these regulations.

Interscholastic Behavior Guidelines

All players, coaches/advisors, parents, and other fans attending any interscholastic contest are expected to:

1. Maintain pride for self and school.
2. Strive to keep high standards of conduct.
3. Not sit on the front row of the bleachers. No standing is allowed on the field house floor.
4. Sit in the bleachers. Continuous standing is allowed in designated areas only.
5. Refrain from use of profanity or implied profanity.
6. Not engage in disrespectful chants, including personal remarks directed at players and officials.
7. Not single-out players by number or name.
8. Not display disrespectful behaviors to other fans, players, or cheerleaders.
9. CHEER FOR YOUR OWN TEAM-NOT AGAINST THE OTHER TEAM!
10. Be a credible citizen at all times.
11. Abide by the R-7 Board Policy prohibiting the use of tobacco products inside the building or outside on any school or athletic grounds.

Sportsmanship Philosophy

Lee's Summit R-7 School District is a member of the Greater Kansas City Suburban Conference and Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA). As members of these groups, we adhere to policies set down for the display of good sportsmanship by athletes, students, fans, parents, and patrons. Member schools are expected to enforce sportsmanship rules for their own schools, players, and spectators.

R-7 DISTRICT POLICIES

Activity Conflict Priority List

Students should make reasonable choices when participating in activities to not create conflicts between activities. This involves good decision-making skills, prioritizing, and long-range goals and aspirations; however, when a conflict arises between two school-sponsored activities, administrative priority will follow this order of precedence:

- 1 - National events
- 2 - State events
- 3 - District/sub-state events
- 4 - Conference events
- 5 - Interscholastic events
- 6 - School performances
- 7 - Required practices (dress rehearsal)
- 8 - Regular practices
- 9 - Club activities, events, or competitions

Anti-Hazing Policy

Hazing is defined as, including, but not necessarily limited to, any action or situation created, whether on or off school premises, which might reasonably be expected to result in mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. This definition includes the following activities; but is not limited to:

- Paddling
- Creation of excessive fatigue
- Physical and psychological shocks
- Requiring or encouraging the wearing of apparel in public that is conspicuous and normally not considered in good taste
- Public ridicule of students, including morally degrading or humiliating games and activities
- Late work sessions, excessive time demands, or other requirements that interfere with academic performance
- Demanding or encouraging any other activities that conflict with civil law and/or school policies

Disciplinary consequences will occur to anyone or any team found to be guilty of hazing.

According to Missouri state statutes "consent" to hazing is not a defense.

Chemical Use/Possession Policy

Philosophy

R-7 School District recognizes that the use and/or possession of tobacco and mood-altering chemicals as a significant health problem for adolescents, resulting in negative effects on behavior, learning, and the total development of each individual. The possession or use of tobacco and of mood-altering chemicals, such as alcohol, drugs, marijuana, etc., by adolescents affects extra-curricular participation and the development of related skills.

Statement of Purpose

1. To recognize and elevate the physical and emotional potential of students in a positive manner, and encourage the growth of these students in an atmosphere of responsible citizenship.
2. To emphasize the school's concern for maintaining and improving the health and safety of students while participating in activities.
3. To promote his/her awareness of the long-term physical and emotional effects of chemical use on health.
4. To promote equity and a sense of order and discipline among students.
5. To confirm and support existing state laws that restrict the use of chemicals.
6. To establish and promote high standards of conduct for those students who are leaders and standard-bearers among their peers.
7. To assist students who desire to resist peer pressure that directs them toward the use of chemicals.
8. To provide prevention guidelines for chemical abuse in the activity programs for students and staff advisors of R-7 School District.
9. **The expectation of the R-7 School District is that credible citizenship is to be a year-long commitment. Non-credible citizenship could result in disciplinary action or removal from participation.**

Objectives

To establish a prevention program that includes penalty guidelines, as well as, assurance that fair treatment is received for the action. The three major components of fair treatment are:

1. Certainty — enforcement of consequences will follow the violation.
2. Severity — fair penalty for the act.
3. Celerity — promptness of the process; must be immediate.

Consequences for Chemical Abuse

Credible citizenship is a year-round responsibility. The following rule includes the school year, summer, and season of practice, play, or rehearsal:

*Regardless of quantity, a student shall not use or possess tobacco; have in possession or use a beverage containing alcohol; use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell, or give away **illegal drugs or chemicals**, or any substance defined by law as a drug specifically prescribed for the student's own use by his/her doctor; or use or be in possession of drug paraphernalia. The use of prescribed or non-prescribed performance-enhancing products is greatly discouraged by the Lee's Summit R-7 School District.*

The use of each type of chemical can adversely affect the student on a short- or long-term basis. Chemical substances are defined as tobacco, alcohol, mood-altering chemicals, and drug paraphernalia.

The following are minimum guidelines that shall be applied for the violation of the chemical abuse rules. Each coach/sponsor shall have the option of assigning additional penalties for any violation.

First Violation Penalty: Following confirmation of the violation, the student loses eligibility to participate in the next match/contest(s) that occur in a consecutive, chronological sequence. The student/athlete shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition and may not participate for a minimum of 40% of his/her competitive season. The matches/contests cannot be selected. The student must meet all other team obligations as defined by the coach/advisor of that activity. Also, it is the student's responsibility to obtain services from a licensed counseling or rehabilitation service for 10 hours of tobacco/drug/alcohol counseling. Written documentation from the service provider must be given to the Building Athletic/Activities Director before the student can participate in activities.

Second Violation Penalty: The student shall be ineligible for 365 days, beginning with the date of the violation.

Violations occurring at the end of the season, off-season, or during the summer

The loss of eligibility carries over to the next season in which the student/athlete participates. For example: If a student commits a violation during the last contest of the season, he/she loses eligibility (as per the consequence of the category involved) in the next season of participation. The 40% formula will be reworked per the next season of participation. Counseling and/or rehabilitation services must begin during the season of the violation.

Commitment Form

Prior to participating in any practice or tryout sessions for any interscholastic sport/event, each athlete/participant and parent must return the "R-7 District Activity/Athletic Commitment Form" found in the appendix of this handbook. Parents and participants should read completely the policies and information in the activity/athletic handbook. Parents and students must both sign off on the commitment form. The signed form is a contractual understanding between students/parents/coaches/sponsors of the following requirements for participation.

1. MSHSAA physical and personal medical insurance is provided (if applicable).
2. Participation in athletics and activities is voluntary and a privilege.
3. The handbook has been read, discussed, and questions answered in regard to the document.
4. Participants will follow the school district policies and comply with the requirements listed in the handbook.
5. Parents will support the high school in its efforts to promote good citizenship and the requirements listed in the handbook.
6. The commitment form must be completed for each school year. Only one commitment form needs to be on file per participant.

Field Trips

Educational field trips often enhance the program of instruction. Field trips planned by faculty and staff will be with an educational purpose, and in regard to a unit of study. Students participating in field trips must follow the following policies and procedures:

Any student leaving with the group on a trip or excursion must also return with the group, unless prior arrangements have been made with a parent for the parent to transport their student. All participants in any district sponsored field trip or excursion must sign a statement agreeing to follow all applicable district policies, administrative procedures, school rules, and the rules of any sponsoring or host organization.

In the event that district participation in a field trip, excursion or other off-campus school-sponsored activity is canceled, participation by district students is not authorized or sanctioned in any way by the district, contrary to district policy, is at the sole risk of the student, and may jeopardize such student's eligibility to engage in further participation in the activity.

Proposal Procedures for a New Activity

The following steps are required for initiating a new activity or for providing guidelines to staff advisors for administering one that has been established.

1. Investigate the interest and needs of students for the activity.
2. Select a knowledgeable and enthusiastic staff advisor.
3. Hold a preliminary meeting (or meetings) with the staff advisor and students.
4. Involve students in the formulating and adoption of objectives for the activity.
5. Present objectives and a general plan to the principal (or activities director) for approval.
6. Prepare a Constitution and By-Laws. Standards for membership and procedures for upholding these standards should be included. The Constitution and By-Laws should be presented to the principal or activities director for approval and then to the student senate for chartering.
7. Elect officers: Make certain that students understand the significance of selecting leaders who meet well-defined qualifications for the privilege of representing other students.
8. The staff advisor shall provide guidance to officers and members of committees. Check to make certain that chairpersons understand proper parliamentary rules and presiding techniques. Care should be taken to make certain that thorough preparation has been made for all meetings and programs. The students should look to the staff advisor as a resource person.
9. The objectives, standards to be applied, values to be received, general plans, etc., should be carefully reviewed at the first regular meeting of the organization. It is suggested that this be done by others whose preparation for the presentations has been reviewed by the staff advisor. It is extremely important that students be fully involved, but that their involvement will achieve worthwhile objectives.
10. Evaluate each meeting and each program. The staff advisor should make his/her own evaluation but should also guide students in making an evaluation of their own. Much of this evaluation will be subjective in nature. The following questions will prove helpful:
Were the objectives of the activity worthwhile?
Did the activity contribute toward the attainment of these objectives?
What could have been done better?
What changes should be made to provide a better activity?

Sportsmanship Policy

All players, coaches/advisors, parents, and other fans are expected to:

1. Emphasize the proper ideal of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fairness.
2. Eliminate all possibilities that tend to destroy the best values of the activity. Hazing and initiations are not acceptable or condoned on or off school grounds.
3. Stress the values derived from participating fairly.
4. Show cordial courtesy to officials, visitors, and each other.
5. Establish a courteous relationship between visitors and hosts.
6. Respect the integrity and judgment of coaches/advisors, judges, and officials.
7. Achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules and expectations of the activity and the standards of eligibility.
8. Encourage leadership, use of initiative, and good judgment by the participants in the activity.
9. Recognize that the purpose of activities is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well-being of the individual participants.
10. Promote good school citizenship standards and use them as a barometer for participation.

All school discipline policies and rules apply directly to Lee's Summit R-7 students at school activities whether they are held on school property or away from school. **Non-credible citizenship may result in disciplinary action or removal from participation.**

According to the Missouri State High School Activities Association By-Law 710:

A school may be suspended from membership in the MSHSAA and from participating in interscholastic activities with other member schools for the unsportsmanlike conduct of teams, coaches, students, and fans. Each school is responsible for the conduct of its teams, coaches, students, and fans at games both at home and away. Please support the players in a positive manner rather than possibly placing them in a position of being penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in the spirit of high school athletics.

PARENT INFORMATION

Communications

Parent/Coach Relationship

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. As parents, when your student becomes involved in a program, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on your student. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your student's program. Coaches and parents are expected to encourage and praise students in their attempt to improve themselves as students, athletes, and citizens. Parents can facilitate this by gaining an understanding and appreciation of all aspects of the sport/activity and the expectations placed on your student.

Communication That Coaches/Staff Advisors Expect From Parents:

1. Concerns should be expressed directly to the coach/staff advisor.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts should be shared well in advance.
3. An appointment should be scheduled to discuss any specific concern in regard to a coach's/staff advisor's philosophy and/or expectations if there is ever a question.

Parents and coaches should help their students learn that success is achieved in the development of a skill and should make student-athletes feel good about themselves, regardless of the outcome of any contest. As your students become involved in the programs in the R-7 schools, 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 students wish. If you, as a parent, have a concern, take time to talk with coaches in an appropriate manner, including proper time and place, being sure to follow the designated chain of command. At these times, discussion with the coach/advisor is encouraged.

Communications You Should Expect From Your Student's Coach/Staff Advisor:

1. Philosophy of the coach/staff advisor.
2. Expectations the coach/staff advisor has for your student as well as for all the students involved in the activity.
3. Location and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
5. Procedure should your student be injured during participation.
6. Discipline that results in the denial of your student's participation.
7. Requirements to earn a school letter for that activity.

Appropriate Concerns To Discuss With Coaches/Staff Advisors:

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

Sometimes it is very difficult to accept your student not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches/staff advisors 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 student's coach/staff advisor. Other things, such as those listed next, must be left to the discretion of the coach/staff advisor.

Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches/Staff Advisors:

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

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach/staff advisor and the parent. These are encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. Everyone involved is expected to be respectful, to recognize and show appreciation for the other's role, and to reinforce the school's "Student Activity/Athletic Code of Conduct" plus the policies and procedures as outlined in this handbook. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

If You Have a Concern to Discuss with a Coach/Staff Advisor, the Following Procedure Should Be Followed:

Call to set up an appointment with the coach/staff advisor.

Please do not attempt to confront a coach/staff advisor before, during, or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach/staff advisor. Meetings of this nature usually do not promote resolution.

What Can a Parent Do if the Meeting with the Coach/Staff Advisor Did Not Provide a Satisfactory Resolution?

1. Call and set up an appointment with the Activities Director to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

Competitive Program Selection

1. Coaches/sponsors are hired by the school district to be responsible for establishing criteria for selection with input from their staff. This may be a highly subjective process. Selection and decisions regarding game/performance situations are the sole responsibility of this staff.
2. At times, there are limited opportunities for students due to our large school size and the competitive nature of high school athletics/activities. While this is not our desire, it is a reality. It is extremely difficult for coaches/sponsors to tell young people they will not be placed on the team/performance group for which they want to participate, or that they have not made any team/performance group at all. All students, regardless of their grade in school, should understand that these are real possibilities.
3. If selected, a student should be prepared to accept placement at any level and complete the season in good standing. Parents should also prepare themselves for this and accept the coach's/sponsor's decisions.
4. Coaches/sponsors are expected to assemble the most competitive team possible, by selecting individuals, filling positions according to need and appropriately placing students on the proper team/performance group, then defining each individual's role, based on certain criteria, including but not limited to, citizenship, sport/activity specific ability, sport/activity specific skills, ability to work together, and willingness to learn.
5. Underclass students have the same opportunity to make a varsity team/performance group as a senior does. In order to make a varsity team/performance group as a senior, a student must be willing to fulfill a role that the team/performance group needs. Our program structure dictates that there will always be more underclass students than upper class in the total program.
6. There are many non-school teams/performance groups sponsored by different organizations through which students can gain valuable experiences by participating on these teams/performance groups. However, it is very important that students and parents understand that participation on a non-school team/performance group does not guarantee any player a place on the high school team/performance group.
7. The main goal of any level of competitive athletics/activities is to put the most talented members of any team/performance group in competition to win the contests. Starting positions and playing time are not guaranteed to anyone. Each member of a team/performance group is valuable to the team's/performance group's overall progress. Some members may play a great deal of the time in a contest while others may not play what a parent would consider "significant playing time." Regardless of time spent in actual competition, simply by being part of a team/performance group, a student can learn many valuable lessons such as: sportsmanship, working together to meet team/performance group goals, commitment, placing team/performance group above self, learning to accept instruction and criticism, respect for others, winning and losing with dignity, and being responsible for one's own actions.

Eligibility Protection

The Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA), of which the R-7 School District is a member, is a voluntary, nonprofit, 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 MSHSAA is to establish eligibility standards that must be met by all students to sustain the **privilege** of representing their school in interscholastic activities. Eligibility is a PRIVILEGE to be granted by the school to a student. Eligibility is NOT A STUDENT'S RIGHT BY LAW. Precedent-setting legal cases have determined that eligibility is a privilege to be granted only if the student meets all standards adopted by the schools.

The MSHSAA eligibility brochure will be provided to each student-athlete and will be available for pickup in the athletic office of each high school.

MSHSAA Transfer Policy

All 8th grade students who are interested in playing sports at LSHS, LSNHS, or LSWHS next year need to be aware of the transfer policy of the Missouri High School Athletics Association (MSHSAA) which states:

238.3 TRANSFER OF ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS - The following standards are for the purpose of assuring fairness to all students.

2a. Upon promotion from the 8th grade or the highest grade of a junior high/middle school administered as a separate unit within a school system, a student may be eligible only at the public high school located in the public geographical attendance district in which the student's parents reside or any nonpublic high school located in the nonpublic geographical attendance district as specified in By-Law 238.1-b, in which the student's parents reside.

Any student who chooses to attend a school other than those specified in By-Law 238.3a-2 above shall be eligible only at the sub-varsity level in all sports for 365 days from the date of promotion from the 8th grade or the highest grade of a junior high/middle school administered as a separate unit within a school system.

Physicals and Medical Care

1. R-7 schools are members of the MSHSAA. In order to participate in interscholastic activities as a member school in all interscholastic contests, district, state, etc., Lee's Summit High School, Lee's Summit North High School and Lee's Summit West High School must follow the by-laws set.
2. The following groups must have a MSHSAA physical on file: all MSHSAA-sponsored sports, cheerleading, dance team, and color guard/flags. To be valid it must be dated February 1 or after of the previous year.
3. Verification that the student-athlete has basic insurance coverage including the insurance company's name and member identification number must be on the front of the physical form.
4. Parent and student-athlete signatures must be on the form.
5. Valid student/parent demographic and emergency information must be provided.
6. Medical history of the student-athlete provided by the parent/guardian must be completed on the form.
7. Correct date making the physical valid for the appropriate school year must be readable and accurate.
8. The people in the activities office examine hundreds of physicals each year. Should any question about the authenticity of the information on the physical be asked, the student and/or parent will be asked to verify the information through the physician from whom the physical was obtained. Because of privacy issues, this office cannot verify physicals that are non-readable or in question. This office, however, can make the judgment to deny participation of students in activities until parental verification is obtained.

Medical Releases and Athletic Participation:

1. R-7 schools have certified athletic trainers on staff. These trainers provide excellent athletic injury care, injury prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation.
2. With the high cost of medical care, doctor office visits and emergency room treatment, the athletic trainer can be a tremendous help to our student athletes and to our parents' medical expenses.
3. R-7 trainers are always available to examine an athletic injury prior to medical visits. The athletic trainers may recommend that your family physician needs to be seen. The athletic trainer may call for emergency services. The athletic trainer is available for consultation on any injury that may impact a student-athlete's ability to practice or play.
4. Once a student-athlete has been directed to see a physician or has been seen by a physician or hospital emergency room personnel, R-7 athletics/activities are bound by liability and policy to have a written doctor's release for a student-athlete to return to practice or play.

5. We appreciate parents making decisions as to the health of your children and whether or not they need to be seen by a doctor. This is your parental right. Legally, we cannot allow a student-athlete back into our athletic programs once a doctor has seen him/her until the athlete has been given a written release by his/her doctor for a return to normal activities.

6. With the high cost of medical care and upon any visit to an emergency room or doctor to whom you take your student-athlete, **PLEASE REQUEST THAT THE MEDICAL PERSONNEL PROVIDE WRITTEN ORDERS WHEN IT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR STUDENT-ATHLETE TO RETURN TO NORMAL ACTIVITIES.**

LEE'S SUMMIT R-7 HIGH SCHOOL CLOSED HEAD INJURY RETURN TO ACTIVITY CRITERIA

The Lee's Summit R-7 School District takes a proactive approach to the management of concussions in athletics. Student athlete in a contact or collision sport will be required to undergo baseline neurocognitive testing (Impact testing). The following sports will be tested: football, B/G soccer, B/G basketball, wrestling, baseball, softball, volleyball, and pole-vaulters. However, athletes with a history of concussions in any sport or deemed necessary will also be tested. This gives us pre-injury information about the way an athlete thinks, and how they react. If an athlete were to sustain a concussion, this pretest gives us concrete data to use to help us determine an appropriate return to play protocol (RTP) for each athlete. For the RTP, see page 31-32 of the Lee's Summit R-7 Athletic Training Policies and Procedures Manual

AWARDS

Athletic Awards

VARSITY/PROVISIONAL/JUNIOR VARSITY/ PARTICIPATION LETTER AWARD

A certificate will be presented to the athlete each time he/she meets the requirements established in that sport and is recommended by the Head Coach to be a recipient of the award.

Athlete Signing Procedures

Letters of intent to be signed by student athletes for college need to be initiated by parental contact with the high school head coach. This needs to be done in writing or by e-mail. The process can then be finalized between the coach and school administration. Each R-7 high school has specific procedures for NLI [National Letter of Intent] signing ceremonies. Please contact the Activities Office of the respective high school for details.

Athletic Lettering

All of the R-7 athletic programs offer an athletic letter. Each sport offers objective criteria and qualifications for lettering set by the individual sport's coaching staff. Subjective criteria such as, but not limited to, the factors of sportsmanship, citizenship, and good team membership also determine the conferring of a letter. Coaches have the right to set the standards they want in order to "letter" athletes. Coaches should communicate to the athletes the varsity lettering standards prior to the start of the season. Standards should not change after they have been stated. The head coach has the ultimate authority in the granting of a varsity athletic letter.

Non-Athletic Lettering

Several organizations offer a non-athletic letter for their activity. Each activity offers objective qualifications and criteria for lettering set by the organization. The additional factors of good school citizenship and a constructive, positive attitude are integral criteria of the lettering process. For lettering requirements, check with individual staff advisors.

MSHSAA-SPONSORED SPORTS

Coaches' Athletic Council (CAC)

The CAC is composed of the head coaches of the athletic teams, athletic trainers, and Activity/Athletic Director. The council meets once a month to address concerns and needs, discuss current issues, disseminate information from the Missouri State High School Activities Association, review policies, and provide updates on "in-season" sports activities.

Conference Affiliation

The R-7 School District is a cooperating member of the Greater Kansas City Suburban Association of Cooperating Schools and is committed to adhere to the rules and regulations of the association.

Presently there are 25 member schools that are divided into four divisions with each division based upon the population of each individual school. The division is as follows:

GOLD	RED	WHITE	BLUE
Blue Springs	Liberty North	Ruskin	Grandview
Blue Springs South	Liberty	Fort Osage	Kearney
Lee's Summit	Park Hill South	North Kansas City	Belton
Lee's Summit North	Raytown	Staley	Winnetonka
Lee's Summit West	St. Joe Central	Oak Park	Platte County
Raymore-Peculiar Park Hill	Truman	William Chrisman	Raytown South

In addition to competing for conference championships within each division, an all-sports award is presented to the school that has the best overall record in the 19 recognized sports.

Sports by Season

FALL

Girls Cross Country V, JV & 9
 Football V, JV, 10, 9A & 9B
 Girls Golf V & JV
 Softball V, JV & C
 Boys Swimming V & JV

Boys Cross Country V, JV & 9
 Volleyball V, JV, 9A & 9B
 Girls Tennis V & JV
 Boys Soccer V, JV & C

WINTER

Girls Basketball V, JV, 10, 9A & 9B
 Boys Basketball V, JV, 10, 9A & 9B

Wrestling V, JV & 9
 Girls Swimming V & JV

SPRING

Boys Golf V & JV
 Boys Tennis V & JV
 Baseball, V, JV & C

Boys Track V, JV & 9
 Girls Soccer V, JV & C
 Girls Track V, JV & 9

MSHSAA-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

Activity Performance Council (APC)

The APC is composed of the staff advisors of non-athletic performance groups, particularly, flags, auxiliary, cheerleaders, and dance team. The council meets once a month to address concerns and needs. In addition, a review of non-athletic activities and policies occurs.

Curricular and Co-Curricular Organizations

Some organizations fall under academic class guidelines, as well as, activity guidelines and requirements because a class period is given to the organization as well as academic credit. Such classes have academic objectives and independent grading criteria. Students enrolled in these courses may have other required expectations. The individual staff advisors will acquaint the students with the full scope of responsibilities in those classrooms.

MSHSAA Activity Listing and Descriptions

Academic Team	Chamber Choirs
Cheerleading	Dance Team
Debate/Forensics	Golden Guard/Crimson Colors/Titan Guard
Marching Band	Orchestra
Symphonic Band	Theatre

Academic Team

To be a member of the Academic Team one must have an interest in accumulated knowledge and show commitment to attend practices and meets. Practices are held once a week, and there are from ten to twelve contests scheduled during the year. Membership eligibility is based on MSHSAA guidelines.

Chamber Choir

Chamber choirs are offered at all high schools. Chamber Choir is made up of a maximum number of singers who must also be members of Concert Choir. Choir members are auditioned by the director in February of the previous school year. Students are chosen according to musical ability, citizenship, and scholarship. The choir provides an opportunity for highly talented and motivated singers to study and perform vocal music in many different idioms. They represent the school and community in many civic and social functions throughout the Kansas City area. Competitions and festivals (sometimes out-of-state) are also attended.

Cheerleading

The cheerleading program consists of three squads formed to support the athletic teams.

The **Freshman** squad consists of 9th graders who cheer at home freshman games. The **Junior Varsity** squad consists of 9th-11th graders who cheer at home Junior Varsity events.

The **Varsity** squad can consist of 9th-12th graders. Consult the head cheer coach at your building for grade-level requirements. This squad cheers on a rotational basis at football games, boys' and girls' basketball games, soccer games, volleyball matches and wrestling events. Cheer support at all athletic tryouts is a shared decision between cheer coaches, athletic coaches, and the building administrators.

Requirements for tryouts follow the MSHSAA guidelines for eligibility. Details about tryouts are included in the cheerleading packet.

Choirs

All schools offer vocal music groups that participate in interscholastic music contests and/or evaluative festivals. Participants must meet MSHSAA eligibility standards.

Dance Team

The purpose of the Dance Team is to provide entertainment for football and basketball home games. Other performances at community activities, wrestling meets, and soccer games are added periodically. The Dance teams also compete twice a year. The Tigerettes are the LSHS dance team, the Northern Stars are the LSNHS dance team, and the Titans Dance Team is at LSWHS.

Tryouts are in the spring of each year. Requirements for tryouts follow the MSHSAA guidelines for eligibility. Details about tryouts are included in the dance team packet.

Special features of the dance team are exceptional kicks, jazz and pom dances, and performing splits. These are required for anyone trying out.

Debate/Forensics

(National Forensics League)

The National Forensics League is the local chapter of the National Speech Honorary Society for high school students. The organization fosters excellence in speech communications through participation in speech activities and recognition of students' achievements on both the local and national level. To be a member, a student must earn points by participating in the Debate and Forensics Program at the high schools. The students must abide by the rules in the "Code of Conduct" for the program, enroll in one of the classes of the program, and attend speech tournaments.

Golden Guard/Crimson Colors/West Guard

These groups perform with the Marching Band at all home football games and participate in field and parade competitions with the band. Winter Guard performs at both boys' and girls' home basketball games and competes in Mid-Continent Color Guard Association and Winter Guard International Festivals.

These groups practice during the summer and in the fall and winter after school and evenings. Members are chosen in the spring and must show strength in the areas of academics, citizenship, and performance. Details about tryouts are included in an informational packet.

Marching Band

The Marching Band, made up of auditioned students representing grades 9 through 12, is a highly-motivated, precision, musical organization. With rehearsals and performances focused toward musical excellence and precision movement, the largest performing/competing organization in the school represents the spirit, pride, and dedication of the high schools at all home varsity football games. The band also participates in field competitions and parades.

Orchestra

Symphony Orchestra serves as an opportunity for orchestral students to develop and refine musical skills including tone production, sight-reading, notation, ear-training, style, and expression through advanced content-level literature. Special features include a "Pops" Concert, a "Concerto" Concert featuring student soloists, and many performances for special groups and conventions. Membership is by audition in the spring.

Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band is made up of a maximum number of instrumentalists who must also be members of Marching Band. The band is auditioned at the close of marching season. Students are chosen according to musical ability, rehearsal techniques, and attendance. The band provides an opportunity for highly talented and motivated musicians to study and perform band music in many different idioms. Advanced musical skills involving tone production, tuning, sight-reading, notation, ear training, style, and expression are required to perform advanced levels of literature. All performances are required.

Theatre

TIGER ACT/LSH-ITS/WESTSIDE STAGE

Tiger ACT/LSN-ITS/WESTSIDE STAGE are the local troupes of The International Thespian Society, the world's largest high school theatre honorary society. These troupes sponsor the fall, winter, and spring plays. Other theatrical opportunities are offered at all schools.

Members earn points toward a theatre letter by participating in the shows as a crew, cast, or audience member. Points can also be used to become part of Thespians. At the end of the school year, the members of these troupes elect the winners of the acting and technical awards for the theatre department.

During the course of the year, these troupes sponsor a number of trips to area productions by schools, community, and professional theatres. During the winter, the members of the troupe have the option of attending the State Thespian Festival. The summer offers the chance to travel to the International Thespian Society.

Other Clubs Offered

All three high schools offer a variety of school site-based chartered clubs. These clubs may be curricular or non-curricular in nature. Check with the high school activities office for a complete listing of clubs, sponsors, and contact information.

Student Advisory Councils

STUDENT ACTIVITY ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAAC) AT LSNHS/LSWHS

TIGER PRIDE ADVISORY TEAM (TPrAt) AT LSHS

The SAAC/TPrAt is a group of students who are representative of various high school activities. This council meets on a regular basis with the building athletic/activity director. The students on the council give focus, insight, and suggestions as to school issues of sportsmanship, coach/sponsor communication, and activity/athletic rules and policies. Students are recommended to the council by coaches and sponsors.

SCHOOL SONGS OF THE HIGH SCHOOLS

LEE'S SUMMIT HIGH ALMA MATER

There's a school in old Missouri
That is second unto none.
We love to sing her praises
And tell the things she's done.
We're proud of her past record
And we'll all pledge loyalty
To the school we love so dearly,
L.S.H.S., here's to thee!

Lee's Summit, Lee's Summit
Your colors we'll proudly fly
And we'll all be ever loyal
To our dear old L.S. High.

As the years roll swiftly onward,
And we leave her dear old halls,
Our thoughts turn ever backward
As memory recalls
The days we've spent together
And the happiness untold,
And we'll all be ever loyal
To our dear old black and gold.

LSHS FIGHT SONG

Tigers to Victory
Fighting for our fame again
We're here for victory
And we'll fight until we win
So stand beside us
As we're building up the score
We're gonna push those (visiting team)
Back again
We're Gonna Fight Forever More!!!!

LEE'S SUMMIT NORTH ALMA MATER

To Lee's Summit North our voices raise
With songs of honor and of praise.
Beacon of Integrity,
Forever we shall sing of thee.
Wave the Crimson Banner high;
Pride and Loyalty draw nigh.
Spirit, Friendship, Unity,
We'll cherish for eternity.

LSNHS FIGHT SONG

Lee's Summit North, we're behind you
Fighting all the way.
Marching ever onward,
We will win this game today.
RAH! RAH! RAH! North Bronco Spirit,
Fierce and strong and true.
Fight for the Broncos! Lead on, Broncos!
Show the world what we can do!

LEE'S SUMMIT WEST ALMA MATER

When you gaze across the open plain,
You'll see a glowing flame.
A flame of wisdom, pride, and honesty
That is the home for me.
Titan strong and Titan true
The path of knowledge which we choose.
We will always be loyal to the Silver and Navy Blue.
May you enter these hallowed halls of West
And strive to pass the test.
Building lives of pure integrity
For all to plainly see
Lee's Summit West

We'll be true
Our loyalty lies
With the Silver and Navy Blue

LSWHS FIGHT SONG

TITANS ON TO VICTORY
Oh we're the Titans reaching victory,
and we will not stop till our goal we see.
Oh we will fight. Fight!
And we will win. Win!
And we will do it all again!
"T" - "I" - "T" - "A" - "N" - "S"
TITANS We're on to Victory!

R-7 ACTIVITY/ATHLETIC COMMITMENT FORM (2016-2017)

PARTICIPANT'S NAME (*PRINT*) _____ SCHOOL YEAR _____

PLEASE LIST ALL ACTIVITIES OR SPORTS on line below:

Prior to participating in any practice or tryout sessions for any interscholastic sport, each athlete must:

- Successfully pass a physical examination by a registered physician or other authorized health care provider, and the copy of such examination must be on file in the office of the building athletic director. The physical exam is valid if issued on or after February 1 of the previous school year.
- Return the Activity/Athletic Commitment Form properly signed.
- Provide proof of personal health insurance. _____
(*Company Name/Policy #*)
- Have parent and student signature.

As a school's student-athlete participating voluntarily in interscholastic athletics. I verify that:

1. I have reviewed the information and understand what the R-7 School District expects from me in regards to sportsmanship, citizenship, scholastics, and staying free from drug/alcohol/tobacco use while enrolled in this school. I understand the consequences for breaking school policy, and I will not do so while an R-7 School district student participant. **I understand that this is a year-round commitment.** I will be responsible for all equipment issued to me throughout the season, will return such equipment at the conclusion of the season, and will pay the current replacement cost for any of the equipment not accounted for by me at the end of the season.
2. I acknowledge that I have been properly advised, cautioned, and warned by administrative and coaching personnel of the school district that I am exposing myself to the risk of injury, including but not limited to, the risk of sprains, fractures and ligament and/or cartilage damage which could result in a temporary or permanent, partial, or complete impairment in the use of my limbs; brain damage; paralysis; or even death. Having been so cautioned and warned, it is still my desire to participate in sports and to do so with full knowledge and understanding of the risk of injury.
3. I, along with my parents, certify that I have reviewed, understand, and will follow all of the school district policies in the activity/athletic handbook. In order to be eligible for participation, I understand I must comply with all requirements listed.
4. I understand I must be enrolled and have passed a minimum of six credit classes the semester prior to participation as well as being enrolled in six credit classes the current semester of participation.

R-7 Citizenship Violation Consequences. Non-credible citizenship may result in disciplinary action. These actions may include parental contact, one-on-one conferences, extra athletic conditioning, benching, non-participation in interscholastic games, and/or a percentage of the interscholastic season withheld. **Ultimately**, removal from participation and/or the team can occur. A student shall not be considered eligible while under suspension.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

As a parent/guardian of a student participating voluntarily in interscholastic athletic/activities, I have reviewed the information, discussed it with my son/daughter, and will support the high school in its efforts to promote good citizenship.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

****Please note: Coaches or sponsors may have additional policies other than what is listed in the handbook and will provide this information to each student/athlete and parent.**

APPENDIX

District Athletic Directory

District Athletics/Activities Office

Richard Bechard, CMAA 986-1037
301 NE Tudor, Lee's Summit, MO 64086

Lee's Summit High School Athletics/Activities Office

Chad Hertzog 986-2107
400 SE Blue Parkway, Lee's Summit, MO 64063

Lee's Summit North Athletic/Activities Office

Mike McGurk, CMAA 986-3008
901 NE Douglas, Lee's Summit, MO 64086

Lee's Summit West High School Athletic/Activities Office

Jereme Hubbard 986-4008
2600 SW Ward Road, Lee's Summit, MO 64082

Campbell Middle School Athletic/Activities Office

Brett Jacobs 986-3184
1201 NE Colbern Rd., Lee's Summit, MO 64086

Pleasant Lea Middle School Athletic/Activities Office

Joe Dan Vendelin 986-1184
630 SW Persels Rd., Lee's Summit, MO 64081

Summit Lakes Middle School Athletic/Activities Office

Kirk Hipple 986-1384
3500 SW Windemere Drive, Lee's Summit, MO 64082



LEE'S SUMMIT
R-7 SCHOOLS
Learning for Life

