

West Carroll Jr./Sr.
High School Athletic
Handbook



2022-2023

Administration

Mr. Joe Tetleton, Principal
Mr. Adam Douglas, Assistant Principal

Athletic Department

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Membership affiliations

Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletics Association (TSSAA)

National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)

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Message to the parents

This material is presented to you because your son or daughter has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics, and you have expressed your willingness to permit them to compete. We believe that participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences which help students grow and mature. A student who elects to participate in athletics is voluntarily making a choice of self-discipline. This discipline involves following all rules and the code of conduct included in this handbook, as well as, the school's student handbook. Failure to comply with these rules of conduct will result in disciplinary action up to and including exclusion from interscholastic athletics. It is the role of the department of athletics to make rules that govern the spirit of competition for the school. We hope that this publication clearly articulates those rules. It is expected that parents/guardians will review this publication thoroughly with your student-athlete.

Participation in athletics at West Carroll Jr./Sr High School is a privilege. As such, student-athletes and parents must follow the policies and expectations required to participate in athletics at West Carroll Jr./Sr High School. Each student-athlete and parent or guardian must read this Athletic Handbook and acknowledge acceptance of these policies and expectations by completing the proper form at the back of this handbook.

To the student-athlete

As a member of an interscholastic team of West Carroll Jr./Sr High School, you have inherited a wonderful tradition; a tradition you are challenged to uphold. We desire to be successful and to honor our athletes, our schools, and our community. When you wear the colors of your school, we expect that you are willing to assume the responsibilities that go with them.

1. RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOUR SCHOOL: By participating in athletics to the maximum of your ability, you are contributing to the positive reputation of your school. The student body, the community, and other communities judge our school by your conduct and attitudes, both on and off the field. Because of this leadership role, you can contribute greatly to school spirit and community pride. Make WCHS proud of you, and our community proud of our school.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES TO OTHERS: When you know in your heart that you have practiced to the best of your ability every day and that you have played the game "all out," your teammates and family can be proud of you. The younger students in the West Carroll Special School district system are also watching you. Set good examples for them.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOURSELF: You have a responsibility to broaden yourself and develop strength of character. You owe it to yourself to get the greatest possible good from your high school experiences. Your academic studies, your participation in other extracurricular activities, as well as, sports prepare you for your life as an adult.

Collaboration with the West Carroll Special School district Student Handbook

The West Carroll Jr./Sr High School Student Handbook and the West Carroll Jr./Sr. Athletic Handbook work in collaboration with each other. Both handbooks serve to provide the policies and expectations for our school community. As such, they work together. In the event that the Athletic Handbook does not address a particular situation, the West Carroll Jr./Sr. High School Student Handbook should be used for clarification. In the unforeseen circumstances that a policy or expectation appears to conflict between the two handbooks, the Student Handbook will supersede the Athletic Handbook.

It is also not possible to foresee every situation or circumstance and address it in the Athletic Handbook. In these circumstances, the school Administration will take the most appropriate action deemed necessary.

Collaboration with the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA)

West Carroll Jr./Sr High School is a member of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA), and as such adheres to all TSSAA bylaws and policies. In several areas, West Carroll Jr./Sr High School has athletic and activity policies that may be more stringent than that of the TSSAA. West Carroll Jr./Sr High School students will be held to a higher standard that best reflects their capabilities and expectations. These local school policies do apply beyond the TSSAA policies. Student-athletes must follow all TSSAA bylaws and policies as well as our West Carroll Jr./Sr High School expectations and policies.

Collaboration with each Individual Sport/Team

Head coaches of each sport at West Carroll Jr./Sr High School may have their own team rules/policies. These rules and policies may be more stringent than those set forth by the TSSAA and West Carroll Jr./Sr High School. **Coaches have the right to release student-athletes from a team when deemed necessary.**

Organizational Structure and Resources

Principal- Joe Tettleton Joe.tettleton@wcssd.org

The Principal of the school is responsible for all academic activities within the school as well as overseeing all interscholastic athletics and activities.

Assistant Principal/ Athletic Director- Adam Douglas Adam.Douglas@wcssd.org

The Athletic Director of the school plans, coordinates, promotes and supervises the total athletic program for the school. The Athletic Director is directly responsible for the supervision and leadership of all coaches and athletic activities. Helps and assists with the principal's role as well.

West Carroll Special School District Board of Education- phone- (731)-662-4200

West Carroll Jr./Sr High School- Office:731-662-7116 FAX: 731-662-4198

West Carroll Special School District: Preston Caldwell, Director, preston.caldwell@wcssd.org

Certified Athletic Trainer: Jonathan Allen, Dynamix Physical Therapy, Email- pillaractivemed@gmail.com

Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association, (615)889-6740 <https://tssaa.org/>

National Federation of State High School Associations, www.nfhs.org

Requirements for Participating in West Carroll Jr./Sr High School Athletics

The following forms and information must be completed and on file in the Athletic Director's office prior to a student-athlete trying out or participating for any athletic team.

1. TSSAA Pre-participation physical examination (4 pages)
2. Medical Insurance/Parental Consent (Part of TSSAA Physical)
3. Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) and Concussion Policy signed and dated
4. Athletic Handbook Acknowledgement

Participation Fee: Some sports may require a team fee (if a student gets to keep clothes/gear/etc. after the season). The head coach will determine this fee. This fee is required to be paid prior to a student-athlete being allowed to participate in any contest.

Academic Eligibility Requirements for Athletics

All students wishing to participate in interscholastic athletics and activities must maintain Academic Eligibility in accordance with the TSSAA and West Carroll Jr./Sr High School eligibility standards.

Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Academic Requirements

According to the TSSAA handbook, to be eligible to participate in athletic contests during any school year, the student must earn five credits the preceding year if less than 24 credits are required for graduation or six credits the preceding school year if 24 or more credits are required for graduation. All credits must be earned by the first day of the beginning of the school year. Academic eligibility for a student is based on the requirements of the school year the student was attending at the conclusion of the previous school year.

Students who are ineligible the first semester may gain eligibility the second semester by passing five subjects (1/2 credit) or three blocks (one credit per block) or the equivalent.

The complete TSSAA Academic Rules can be found at <https://tssaa.org/>

Attendance Requirements

To be eligible, students shall be regularly enrolled and in regular attendance at West Carroll Jr./Sr High School. On practice and game days, students must be in attendance for half of the school day (checked in by 11:30). If a student misses class(es) without being excused by the Principal, or the Principal's designate, the student shall not be considered eligible on that date. The following are exceptions that must be pre-approved through the main office for an athlete to be eligible to participate despite not being in class: field trips, college visits, doctor's appointments, funerals, and school-related trips. These exceptions must be pre-approved by the main office at least a day before they would occur.

Students arriving tardy to school must be in class by 9:30 am in order to be eligible to participate in athletics and activities that day. A student-athlete who leaves school for illness during the school day and does not return prior to the end of the academic day is ineligible to participate in athletics and activities that day.

Drug/Alcohol/Tobacco Policy

All athletes who participate in athletics should refrain from the possession or use of any alcohol, drugs, and tobacco, including paraphernalia. Student-athletes must adhere to the Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Policy published in the West Carroll Jr./Sr High School Student Handbook.

Social Media

Any social media post (Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, etc.) that seems to be vulgar, derogatory, crude, comments toward the program, etc. can/will cause suspension or dismissal from the team.

Due Process

Any student-athlete receiving discipline for failing to meet academic, citizenship, and/or school-related standards may appeal their discipline to the Athletic Director through due process. A parent or legal guardian of the student-athlete should submit a request for due process with supporting materials to the Athletic Office. This can be done via email to the Athletic Director or in person. The Athletic Director, in conjunction with the Principal, will review the submitted information and render a ruling in a timely manner, not to exceed 48 hours of the school week.

Equipment and Uniforms

Student-athletes are responsible for all equipment and uniforms issued to them for a sports season. It is the athlete's responsibility to keep the equipment and uniform in general good care. If equipment or uniforms are not returned, returned damaged, or returned not in general good care, the student-athlete is financially responsible for the replacement of the equipment or uniform. Replacement costs are generally much more expensive than an initial cost as oftentimes purchasing one of an item is much more costly. Academic grades, diplomas, and transcripts can all be held until all equipment and uniforms have been either returned and/or paid for. Equipment and uniforms are to be returned immediately following the conclusion of that individual sports season.

Game Uniforms and Team Apparel

Game uniforms and team apparel with wording must be approved before being ordered by the Athletic Director. Game uniforms are only to be worn during games unless preapproved by the Head Coach, Athletic Director, or the Principal. No athletic team apparel, ie. Sweats, and warm-ups; can be worn during the academic school day without preapproval from the Principal.

Money, Cellphones, and Valuables

Students are responsible for the security of their cell phones, money, and other personal valuables while participating in practices and contests. Students are strongly encouraged to secure these items in a locked locker. Coaches and moderators are not responsible for securing a student athlete's valuables.

Inclement Weather

In situations when inclement weather occurs after school hours or on a non-school day, coaches will notify students and parents of any changes via text, school website, or the school's Facebook page. If a practice or contest has already begun, all student-athletes will be supervised by their coach or a school representative until they can be safely picked up by a parent or guardian, or the coach deems it safe for the student to drive themselves home.

In general, please expect that if the weather is unsafe such that school cannot be in session, we will not have after-school activities or athletics. A very limited number of exceptions may apply, but all will be authorized by a school administrator.

In the event a contest is not able to be played because of inclement weather, all efforts will be made to reschedule that contest with the understanding that varsity contests will take a higher priority than lower-level contests. In some cases, these contests will not be able to be rescheduled. Rescheduled contests should be communicated through the coach, and will be appropriately placed on the school website athletic calendar

Parent Expectations

Parents are some of the greatest assets that West Carroll Jr./Sr. High School has. There are expectations of parents of student-athletes that are critical to our overall athletic success.

Parent Conduct at Contests

Just as students represent West Carroll Jr./Sr. High School at athletic contests, so do parents. Parents are encouraged to cheer for our teams and athletes but are asked to do so in a sportsmanlike manner. It is never acceptable for someone to yell at, taunt, or defame an opponent, coach, or official at a high school athletic contest. If there is an incident a parent may be asked to change their behavior or leave an athletic contest. If there are repeated incidents, a parent may not be allowed at athletic contests. In extreme circumstances, a student-athlete may be removed from their team as a result of their parent's behavior.

Alcohol, tobacco, or drugs are never allowed or acceptable at any TSSAA and West Carroll Jr./Sr High School contest.

Chain of Communication

Communication is the cornerstone of any relationship. As such it is important that coaches and student-athletes have a strong relationship. Parents need to feel comfortable with their child's communication with their coach. Parents that have a concern about their child, as it relates to a particular team or athletic program, are encouraged to seek resolution in the most appropriate manner. Conversations and correspondences between coaches and/or student-athletes and/or parents should all stay positive and centered on the student-athlete and their opportunity to help

the team. **Playing time is a coach's decision, and is not an available topic for discussion with a parent.** A student-athlete who wishes to increase their role on a particular team should communicate directly with the coach regarding this.

The following provides a chain of communication that will maintain and build a positive relationship between the athletes and the coach.

Step One: Student Athlete-Coach Communication

Step Two: Student Athlete-Coach-Parent Communication

Step Three: Student Athlete-Coach-Parent-Athletic Director Communication

Communication at any level should always stay student-centered. If an issue is not addressed to a student athlete's understanding, then they should move to the next step of the Chain of Communication.

24 Hour Rule

In the unfortunate circumstance that a student-athlete or parent is upset about something that has occurred during practice or contest, they are always asked to follow the 24-hour rule. The 24-hour rule asks that a student-athlete or a parent who is upset wait until the next day to contact a coach with their concerns. If the practice or contest is held on the weekend, we ask that you wait until Monday to voice your concerns. This allows for the emotion to leave the situation and allows everyone to communicate in a more effective way that focuses on the student-athlete. In cases where waiting until the next day could cause injury or harm to a student, communication is encouraged to happen immediately.

Coaches' Expectations and Responsibilities

A coach is an educator and mentor who should always serve as a positive role model to our student-athletes. There are many expectations of a coach; just as a coach will have many expectations of their student-athletes. Coaches should continually communicate these expectations throughout the offseason and while in the season

Following are the expectations of our coaches:

Supervision: A coach must remain present with their student-athletes until they have been picked up from practice or contests, or they have been designated under another coach or supervisor's care. If bus transportation is not available, parents are expected to pick up their children in a reasonable time following practices and games.

In-Season Scheduling: A coach is responsible to create a regular practice schedule that is communicated in advance to members of the team. Athletes should expect to practice/watch

film 5-6 days a week while in season. Attending daily practice is required to participate on any athletic team at West Carroll Junior-Senior High School.

Off-Season Expectations: Most successful programs require a level of preparation that must begin long before tryouts. Most programs will have some level of off-season participation in activities. No off-season expectation can be mandatory, however; athletes who dedicate themselves beyond just the regular season get better. The nature of competitive sports is that you must continue to develop your physical skills, fitness, and mental skills beyond just the in-season time and training.

Multiple Sport Athletes: West Carroll Junior-Senior High School's athletic success has been built upon multi-sport athletes. Athletes are strongly encouraged to participate in more than one athletic program or activity. Student-athletes become well-rounded athletes and learn different styles and approaches by playing multiple sports.

Communication with Student-Athletes: Coaches must openly communicate with student-athletes. They should speak to them in person whenever possible. When not possible to speak in person, a coach is encouraged to communicate with the student-athlete through an approved means. Some messages a coach will communicate are not always what a student-athlete wants to hear, but if they are honest and student-centered, it will benefit the student-athlete.

Reservation of Right to Amend

West Carroll Junior-Senior High School reserves the right to amend this handbook at any time to more accurately serve the needs of the school with reasonable notice.

Acknowledgment of Athletic Handbook

Each student-athlete and a parent or guardian must read this Athletic Handbook and acknowledge acceptance of these policies and expectations by completing the proper form on the next page. After reading the handbook and going over it, please sign the form and turn it into the main office. A copy will be kept on file in the Athletic Director's office.

Acknowledgment of Athletic Handbook

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read the policies and expectations set forth by the West Carroll Junior-Senior High School's Athletic Department and I accept and will follow those policies and expectations.

Student Athlete

Parent/Guardian

If you have any questions about the West Carroll Junior-Senior High School's Athletic Handbook, please feel free to contact Athletic Director Adam Douglas at adam.douglas@wcssd.org or you can call the school at (731) 662-7116.