



MIAMI WARDOG ATHLETICS

Student-Athlete & Parent Handbook 2022-2023

#TWDW #AIFW

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MIAMI ATHLETICS MISSION STATEMENT

Miami Athletics is committed to excellence in athletics while supporting the overall educational mission of Miami Public Schools. Our mission is that all individuals associated with Wardog Athletics (coaches, staff, student-athletes, alumni, and parents) will value character and integrity traits developed through athletic participation. Participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Anyone enrolled in an athletic hour MUST participate in at least one of the following team sports: Softball, Cross Country, Football, Basketball, Wrestling, Soccer, Baseball, Track, Golf, or Tennis. Students who choose to only participate in cheer, dance, or powerlifting are not to be enrolled in an athletic hour if they do not wish to participate in one of the above mentioned team sports. Student-athlete must be academically eligible in order to participate in a sanctioned event (scrimmage or game). This includes passing five subjects counted towards graduation, passing ALL classes enrolled in for that semester with a minimum GPA of 1.0 ("D" average), and meeting the attendance requirement per district policy. The Biological Sex Affidavit must be signed and on file prior to the student-athlete participating in any sport as required by the State of Oklahoma.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

Student-athletes will not be allowed to try out, participate in practice, or participate in contests without an up-to-date physical examination on file of the person responsible for eligibility. Physicals are to be updated yearly through our online student-athlete registration software. Student-athletes are responsible for obtaining their own physical. Physical forms are available on our athletics website or in the athletic office. Physicals for OSSAA participation must be given no earlier than May 1 of the preceding year the student-athlete is to participate.

INSURANCE

Before any student-athlete is allowed to practice or participate in any interscholastic sport, a statement electronically signed by the student-athlete's parent or guardian must be submitted through our student-athlete software stating that the student-athlete participating in interscholastic athletics is participating under the release of the parent and/or guardian who assumes the liability on their behalf in case of an injury. It is highly suggested that all student-athletes are insured through their parent and/or guardian prior to athletic participation. Participation by the student-athlete can take place without any insurance as long as the student-athlete and their parent/guardian signs a waiver releasing Miami Public Schools and its athletic department from any liability.

INJURIES

It is the responsibility of the head coach to see that treatment of injuries is properly supervised. The trainer will assume this responsibility in cases where needed. In the event that an individual must be taken to the hospital, the individual must be accompanied by a coach or an authorized adult. The parents should be notified of the injury immediately. Coaches will follow doctor's instructions as to further treatment for injured student-athletes. The student-athlete must have permission from doctor to practice and play in games.



DISCIPLINE

Discipline will be handled at the discretion of the head coach of each sport. These measures may be explained through each sports team handbooks. The director of athletics reserves the right to handle any and all areas of discipline at their discretion, or on behalf of the athletic department.

STUDENT-ATHLETE REGISTRATION

All student-athletes *must* register online through the FamilyID software provided by the athletic department prior to their participation in any sport. All required documentation *must* be read and signed electronically through FamilyID prior to the student-athlete participating in any event. An update physical *must* be uploaded as part of the required registration.

REQUIRED FORMS

Student-athletes and parents *must* sign off on the following forms to participate in athletics (part of the online registration process): Authorization for emergency care, Cardiac Arrest agreements, Concussion agreements, Drug Testing consent form, Release of student work, Guideline of social media, OSSAA agreements, Biological Sex Affidavit, and the Miami Athletics Liability Release form. An up-to-date physical uploaded to the software is also required.

DRUG TESTING

In an effort to protect the health and safety of all student-athletes from illegal and/or performance-enhancing drug use and abuse, student-athletes will be required to submit to a drug test prior to participation in all athletic programs and be subject to random drug test throughout the school year. Dates and times for all drug testing is at the discretion of the director of athletics. The drug test consent form *must* be electronically signed through our online registration software. A fee may be collected to process any failed drug test. The athletic department refers to the Miami Public School Board of Education policy for drug testing policies, and any disciplinary measures that may follow after a failed or cheated drug test.



SPORTSMANSHIP*

The primary purpose of Miami Public Schools interscholastic athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, and emotional well-being and development of all involved through the medium of contests. Miami Public Schools and its athletic department will follow all sportsmanship requirements set by the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association (OSSAA). Violations of these requirements may result in suspension from athletic activities.

Miami student-athletes, coaches, parents, and spectators will:

- Regard game officials as fair, accept their decisions as final, and treat officials with respect
- Respect the property of our school and other schools
- Cheer for their team
- Treat the opponent's coaches, players, and spectators with respect
- Show appreciation of good play by both teams
- Accept the decisions and judgments of the coaches
- Wear t-shirts/clothing that displays positive language
- Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat
- Maintain an atmosphere of good sportsmanship at all times

Miami student-athletes, coaches, parents, and spectators will refrain from:

- Actions that will offend, embarrass, or intimidate any individual athlete
- Actions that will call attention to yourself
- Taunts, chants, noises, cheers, jeers, songs, profanity or motions directed at the opposing team, coach, or school
- Using noisemakers or throwing objects
- Displaying signs of any type other than official school banners. Failure to comply with the Miami Wardog Sportsmanship Standards may result in your removal from the site of competition and further disciplinary action

**Administration at Miami Public Schools reserves the right to dismiss, suspend, or ban anyone who continually abuses our expectations of sportsmanship. The definition of said abuses, and the length of any suspension or ban is made at the discretion of the administration team at Miami Public Schools.*

HAZING AND BULLYING

Miami Public Schools and its department of athletics prohibits all forms of hazing, bullying and student intimidation. Students participating in or encouraging inappropriate conduct will be disciplined in accordance with school policy. Such discipline may include, but is not limited to, suspension or expulsion from school and removal from participation in activities. Students who have been subjected to hazing or bullying are instructed to promptly report such incidents to a school official. In addition, district staff, coaches, sponsors and volunteers shall not permit, condone or tolerate any form of hazing or bullying or plan, direct, encourage, assist, engage or participate in any activity that involves hazing or bullying.



District staff will report incidents of hazing and bullying to the building principal. The principal shall promptly investigate all complaints of hazing and bullying and shall administer appropriate discipline to all individuals who violate this policy. District staff that violates this policy may be disciplined or terminated. The district shall annually inform students, parents, and district staff and volunteers that hazing and bullying is prohibited. This notification may occur through the distribution of the written policy, publication in handbooks, presentations at assemblies or verbal instruction by the coach or sponsor at the start of the season or program.

Hazing: For purposes of this policy, hazing may be defined as any activity, on or off school grounds, that a reasonable person believes would negatively impact the mental or physical health or safety of a student or put the student in a ridiculous, humiliating, stressful or disconcerting position of initiation, affiliation, admission, membership or maintenance of membership in any group, class, organization, club or athletic team including, but not limited to, a grade level, student organization or school sponsored activity.

Hazing may include those actions that subject a student to mental stress including, but not limited to, sleep deprivation, physical confinement, forced conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment or criminal activity, or other stress-including activities.

Hazing may also include, but is not limited to: acts of physical brutality; whipping; breathing; branding; exposing to the elements; forcing consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance; forcing inhalation or ingestion of tobacco products; or any other forced physical activity that could adversely affect the physical health or safety of an individual. The use of a cell phone for pictures and/or video can be viewed as encouraging any behavior that leads to, or encourages hazing.

Hazing may occur even when all students involved are willing participants. Hazing does not occur when a student is required to audition or try out for an organization when the criteria are reasonable, approved by the district and legitimately related to the purpose of the organization.

Bullying: For purposes of this policy, bullying may be defined as repeated and systematic intimidation, harassment or attacks on a student or multiple students perpetuated by a single individual or group. Bullying includes, but is not limited to: physical violence, verbal taunts, name-calling and put-downs, threats, extortion or theft or damaging property. Bullying is not defined in the physical sense only. Bullying through the use of technology, social media, or any other forms of communication is prohibited. The use of a cell phone for pictures and/or video can be viewed as encouraging any behavior that leads to, or encourages bullying.

Bullying does not occur when a student is required to audition or try out for an organization when the criteria are reasonable, approved by the district and legitimately related to the purpose of the organization.



SOCIAL MEDIA

As a public institution of high school education, Miami Public Schools supports and encourage the student rights to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of social media. Nevertheless, as representatives of the school and of the athletic department, students will be held to a higher standard. Each student has the responsibility to portray themselves and Miami Public Schools in an appropriate manner, consistent with Federal and State Laws, team and extra-curricular policies and regulations, and OSSAA rules and policies. Students will be held responsible for their actions when using any form of electronic communication (social media). Lack of education pertaining to these regulations and policies does not excuse students from adhering to them. In addition, students must keep in mind any information that is posted can adversely impact personal safety, student status, and career advancement. These posts are easily accessible to reporters, potential employers, law enforcements officials, and college admissions. Students are expected to post only information and images that appropriately represent themselves, their families, the school, the athletic department, extra-curricular programs, and the community of Miami. Inappropriate posting during school hours and/or activities is in violation of the Miami Public Schools cell phone/wireless device use and is subject to discipline. Everything posted online is public information. Any text or photo placed online is completely out of an individual's control the moment it is placed online – even if account restrictions and privacy settings are in place. Information (including pictures, videos, comments and posters) may be accessible even after you remove it.

The following are guidelines/expectations for all student-athletes to follow as it pertains to social media:

- Students should not post any information, photos, comments, videos or other items online that would embarrass or reflect negatively on them, their family, an athletic team, an extra-curricular organization, or Miami Public Schools.
- For safety and privacy reasons, students should not post their home address, local address, phone numbers, date of birth, class schedule, team or extra-curricular travel arrangements or schedules, or other personal information including personal whereabouts at any given time or place. This will minimize the potential of being stalked or becoming the victim of other criminal activity.
- What students post online may affect their future. Many employers and college admission officers review social networking sites as part of their overall evaluation of an applicant. Students should carefully consider how they want to be perceived by those viewing the information posted online. This includes pictures, videos and audio clips, and comments.
- Students should be mindful that internet postings showing images or language reflecting sexual misconduct, nudity, pornography, underage drinking, violence, hazing, and/or use of illegal drugs or controlled substances may affect their status as a member of the Miami Public Schools as well as a member of the athletic department.
- Derogatory language or remarks about fellow students, teammates, teachers, coaches, or other staff members from Miami Public Schools or any other school is unacceptable. Disrespectful comments and/or content aimed toward any student, player, staff member, team, program, school district, etc., will not be tolerated.
- Making demeaning statements, physical/emotional threats to another person(s), and engaging in any other behavior that can be considered cyber-bullying is unacceptable, illegal behavior subject to punishment as appropriate and available to the district. Students who engage in cyber-bullying also risk civil and/or criminal charges, and/or lawsuits that may be filed by their victim(s) or their families.

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CHANGING SPORTS MID-SEASON

From the first time an athlete's name appears on the eligibility list for an interscholastic sport, they may not join another team or compete in another sport until after the end of the current sport season, unless the following conditions are met:

- The athlete presents both head coaches involved a doctor's certificate recommending that their current sport be dropped for health and safety reasons, and the doctor's certificate permits participation in the next sport.
- Both coaches involved and the director of athletics agree that a mid-season change of the sport would be beneficial to the athlete without being unfair to the individuals of either team.
- The parent/guardian is notified of any changes in the athlete's schedule. The coach of the sport the student is leaving must contact the parent, and it is suggested that the coach of the new sport should contact the parent/guardian as well.

QUITTING A SPORT MID-SEASON

When a student-athlete quits or is removed from the team before the completion of the season, there are two options for the remainder of the semester:

Option 1: If the student-athlete does not wish to compete in another sport, they will drop athletics and enroll in another course offered at the school (if current academic schedule allows)

Option 2: If it is too late to change class schedules, the athlete will begin off-season workouts and will be released at the end of the athletic hour

Student-athletes who quit or are dismissed from a sport *will not* be allowed to participate in another sport until the regular season of their previous sport has been completed.

CHANGING SPORTS AT THE END OF THE SEASON

Student-athletes may join their next sport as soon as they have completed their responsibilities to their current sport. All equipment and uniforms must be turned into the coach of the sport just completed. Athletes are expected to finish their current season before participating in any capacity in their next sport.

ATTENDANCE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN SPORT

Student-athletes must attend 4 hours of classes during the school day to be eligible to participate in and athletics event occurring that day. Attendance/participation requirements for practice, team activities, film study, etc., is made at the discretion of the head coach of each respective sport, as well as any discipline associated with not meeting attendance/participation requirements.

POWERLIFTING REQUIREMENTS

In order to participate in powerlifting you *must* be involved in at least one other sport or extra-curricular activity sponsored by the school (other athletic team sport, cheer, dance, band, etc.). Not all participants are guaranteed the opportunity to compete in a regular season or post season powerlifting event. Workouts for powerlifting *may not* take place during a student-athletes current in-season practice time.



COMMUNICATION & RELATIONSHIPS – Coaches, Student-Athlete, Parent/Guardian

Communication you should expect from your head coach:

- Philosophy & Expectations of the coach for their team
- Locations and times of all practices and contests
- Team Requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning
- Procedure should your child be injured during participation

Appropriate concerns to discuss with the head coach:

- The treatment of your child, mentally or physically
- Ways to help your child improve and to help the team
- Concerns about your child's behavior

Issues not appropriate to discuss with the head coach or assistant coaches:

- Playing time (rationale for playing time may be requested)
- Team strategy

There may be a time that requires a conference between the coach, student-athlete, and the student-athlete's parent/guardian. It is important that all parties involved have a clear understanding of one another, and respect their opinion or view on the matter. When these conferences are necessary, the following steps/procedures will be followed to help promote a resolution for the issue of concern in an appropriate manner:

- 1) The student athlete must bring the issue to the coach's attention and meet with their coach one on one (another coach or administrator may also attend).
- 2) If the issue needs further attention, the parent/guardian may contact the head coach to get further clarification from the meeting held with their student-athlete and/or can request a meeting them self with the head coach and their student-athlete. **DO NOT** attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice.
- 3) If the second meeting with the head coach, student-athlete, and parent/guardian does not provide clarification that the issue has been or will be resolved, the parent/guardian may setup a meeting with the director of athletics to discuss the matter further
- 4) The director of athletics will resolve the issue at his/her discretion and communicate the resolution with the head coach, student-athlete, and parent/guardian in an appropriate manner. The decision on the matter from the director of athletics will be final.

Cheer everybody on the team, not just your child: Parents should attend as many games as possible and be supportive, yet allow young athletes to find their own solutions. Don't feel the need to come to their rescue at every crisis. Continue to make positive comments even when the team is struggling.

Model appropriate behavior: When a parent projects poise, control, and confidence, the young athlete is likely to do the same. And when a parent doesn't dwell on a tough loss, the young athlete will be enormously appreciative.

Know your role: The role of the parent is to sit in the stands, and cheer and support the team. Some fans have the false impression that by being in a crowd, they become anonymous. Fans behaving poorly cannot hide. The focus needs to be on the kids and allowing them to participate in and encouraging environment



ACT/COLLEGE INFORMATION

ACT (American College Testing Program)

The ACT is given at NEO A&M College five times per year on all nationally scheduled test dates. Designed to assess each student's general educational development and ability to complete college level work, the main use of the ACT is for college admission and scholarship purpose. All Oklahoma colleges accept the ACT. Registration forms and information related to the ACT are available in the College and Career Center, located at Miami High School. Additional information may be obtained from the ACT website at www.act.org. Students must register at least one month in advance by completing the registration form and mailing it themselves.

ACT Prep Courses

Check with the College and Career Center for ACT Prep course dates and times at Miami High School.

NCAA Division I and II Eligibility

Eligibility as a freshman at the NCAA Division I and II level is dependent on the student-athlete meeting the specific standards listed below:

- Complete all high school core class requirements (earn your diploma)
- Complete the following 16 core courses:
 - 4 years - English
 - 3 years - Math (Algebra I or higher)
 - 2 years - Social Science
 - 2 years - Natural or Physical Science (including 1 lab course, if offered by your high school)
 - 1 year - Additional course in English, Math, Natural Science, or Physical science
 - 4 additional years of academic courses in any of the above categories, or foreign language, non-doctrinal religion or philosophy
- Earn a minimum required grade-point average in your core courses
- Earn a composite ACT score that matches your core-course grade point average and test score sliding scale (for example, a 2.40 core-course grade-point average needs a 19 ACT composite score)

CONCLUSION

There are many benefits for students who participate in athletics. Miami Athletics goal is to implement strong values with our activities to give our kids the ability to improve more than just their game. Those benefits include: Preparing students for their future, increased GPAs, improved time management skills, supports a life of health/wellness, promotes leadership skills, develops character attributes, strengthens community spirit, and teaches teamwork, collaboration, and compromise.

We are fully committed to our student-athletes and look forward each and every year for the opportunity to coach them. We will do so with integrity, character, respect, and a willingness to help them reach their full potential both on and off the field and court.

