

AMITE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENT ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK



**Amite County High School
600 Irene Street
Liberty, MS 39645**

**Ms. Jasmine Jackson, Principal
601-657-8920**

**Dr, Thaddues Peters, Athletic Director
601-657-4361**

Mr. Don Cuevas, Superintendent

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AMITE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENT ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK

This Activities Handbook is designed to inform students who participate in extra-curricular activities and their parents the rules, regulations and information that help to develop the rich tradition of competition in Amite County Athletics and Activities.

Participation in activities is a privilege which carries with its varying degrees of honor, respect, responsibility and tremendous sacrifice from parents and students. Since competition is a privilege and not a right, those who choose to participate will be expected to follow the rules established by the MHSAA, Amite County School District. While an attempt has been made to answer as many questions as possible and to provide information on all aspects of activities/athletic participation, it is possible that you may have some questions that are not answered here. Please contact the principal, athletic director, or superintendent for such information.

The Athletic Department will enforce all rules and regulations as described in this Activities Handbook. Parents and student are asked to sign an acknowledgement document located at the back of this handbook stating that they have read and understand the information included in the handbook and that the athlete is subject to disciplinary measure should he/she violate the rules and regulations set forth in this handbook.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide an opportunity for student-athletes to obtain global skills beyond their respective activities or the athletic arena as they excel and achieve social standards, increase academic awareness and performance, learn self-discipline, teamwork, sportsmanship, and good character as they participate in a variety of competitive, organized activities.

SPORTSMANSHIP

The following policy statement from the National Federation of State High School Associations expresses the concept of sportsmanship as follows:

“The ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior, and integrity permeate our culture. The values of good citizenship and high behavioral standards apply equally to all activity disciplines. In perception and practice, good sportsmanship shall be defined as those qualities of behavior which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. Further, awareness is expected of the impact of an individual’s influence on the behavior of others. Good sportsmanship is viewed as a concrete measure of the understanding and commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity.”

MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

TO REPRESENT YOUR SCHOOL IN ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES CONTEST:

1. You must be a regularly enrolled student and must have enrolled in school no later than the 15th day of school of the semester in which the contest occurs.
2. You must not have graduated from an accredited high school of equal grades.
3. You must not have reached your 19th birthday (15th birthday in middle school) prior to August 1st of the current school year. (A student reaching 19, 15 for middle school, on or after August 1st is eligible for the entire year.)
4. You must have a certified birth certificate (issued by the State Bureau of Vital Records in the state where you were born bearing its official seal and birth recording number) on file in the principal's office.
5. You must not have attended high school more than eight semesters after entering ninth grade. (Fifteen days of attendance during a semester count as a semester.) For athletic purposes, a student completes the eighth grade when he/she passes five or more academic subjects of eighth grade level or above.
6. You must not have participated in any sport/activity more than four seasons after entering ninth grade or must not have participated more than six seasons in any sport/activity after entering the seventh grade.
7. You must have received an adequate physical examination of the current year and must have a physician's certificate on file in the coach's or administrative assistance's office prior to participating in interscholastic athletics.
8. You must have passed a minimum of six units of work (subjects) with a composite numerical average of 70 for those six units during the year preceding the year in which you participate. Not more than one unit in physical education may be counted per year. A maximum of one unit may be earned in an accredited summer school. You must be taking six new units of work (subjects) during the current school year. A new unit (subject) is one not previously passed. Four core courses (English, Math, Science, and Social Studies) must be included in the six courses passed. A student declared ineligible at the beginning of the school year may reestablish his/her eligibility the next semester provided he/she meets the requirements of acquiring a cumulative numerical average of 70 (2.0) for the first semester.
 - * Middle school students must have passed during the last two semesters in attendance and summer school, if applicable, with a minimum cumulative numerical average of 70 (2.0). (7th and 8th graders must be carrying at least five new subjects)
9. You may be eligible in your home school at the beginning of each new school year as far as any transfer of school is concerned. Your home school is the one that serves the area where your parent/guardian resides. Eligibility may be established in any school by attending that school for a period of one school year from the date of original entry. If you attend school outside of your "home school" district, you must attend that school for one full calendar year in order to establish eligibility in that school. Always check your eligibility status before changing schools.

10. If your parents make a bona fide move from one school zone to another; you may transfer your eligibility to the new school.
11. You may not participate on a non-school team or in an outside sport activity in your sport(s) during school season, with the exception of tennis, golf, swimming, track, or cross country team members who may participate as an independent in two outside activities on non-school days during the season of the sport.
12. You must be an amateur athlete and never have played on a college team.
13. You must not have participated in any non-sanctioned all-star game.
14. You must not be guilty of flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct.
15. Middle school students who receive one or more “F’s” and high school students who receive two or more “F’s” during a grading period or progress reports are ineligible in activities until the next grading period or progress report, provided they do not have an “F” at the time of issuance.
16. During the school year, you may not be coached by your school’s coaching staff outside of the school season in your sport(s). Weight training and conditioning programs are exempt from this restriction. During the summer months (from the end of school until the fall sports practice date), mandatory practice is prohibited and games between schools are prohibited.
17. You may not dress in uniform for an athletic contest or sit on the bench in a game uniform or be on the field or court as a player if you are not eligible to participate in the game or event.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

All students, including student-athletes, managers, or support group members must meet the residency requirements of the Amite County School District Boards of Trustees as well as the Mississippi High School Activities Association. In order for a student to try-out or participate in any sport or activity, he/she must be enrolled in the Amite County School District.

BONA FIDE MOVE—A student whose parents make a bona fide move from one community, school zone, or district to another may transfer all rights and privileges to the new school that serves the area into which the parents moved and where the parents reside.

Notes on legal bona fide moves:

1. Household furniture of the family must be moved.
2. All principal members of the family must reside in the new place of residence.
3. The original residence must be leased, rented, disposed of and not used by the family.
4. Six months shall be required to make a move bona fide. (If a family moves into a new school zone and remains there for less than six (6) months, the move will not be considered bona fide.)

BEFORE THE FIRST PRACTICE

The following requirements must be met by the student-athlete **before the first practice** with any team:

1. Must meet academic eligibility requirements.
2. Must pass a physical examination.
3. Must obtain parental signature on physical examination and emergency information.
4. Parent and athlete must attend mandatory team meeting. Both must sign “Acknowledgement of Activities Handbook Document”.
5. Parent information and consent form must be completed, including the signature.

AMITE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT’S ELIGIBILITY

Students must display qualities of good citizenship if they wish to participate in extracurricular activities. A student-athlete is one who performs above and beyond the regular expectations of students. A student-athlete carries himself/herself with a strong sense of **PRIDE, DIGNITY, INTEGRITY, HONESTY, DISCIPLINE, CLASS, and RESPECT**. A student-athlete is not a follower. He or she is a **LEADER!** A student-athlete does not contradict the positive expectations of his/her educational leaders. A student-athlete is determined to beat and defy the odds by becoming a scholar and a leader. Failure to be a good citizen and student/athlete at all times may result in probation and/or suspension from all extracurricular activities. The Mississippi High School Activities Association's Constitution states: Any pupil who is under temporary suspension or whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon the school is not eligible. Any student who is suspended (ISS or OSS) cannot participate in any extracurricular activities (including practices, try-outs, etc.) while they are suspended. A student-athlete’s attendance, attitude and academics must be acceptable to the school in which he/she is enrolled. Remember, a student-athlete is a **STUDENT** first and an **ATHLETE** second.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

1. A high school student must maintain a minimum composite numerical 70 average or a 2.0 grade point average in four (4) core courses, plus two (2) electives each nine-weeks grading period. A student who fails to meet the minimum requirement or has an “F” in any one subject will be placed on probation until the next nine-weeks grading period. A student with 2 or more “F’s” will be suspended from participating in extracurricular activities.
 - * A middle school student must maintain a minimum of 70 average or a 2.0 grade point average in four core courses plus an elective for each nine-weeks grading period. A middle school student who has an “F” during any grading period is not eligible to participate in extracurricular activities. A student who fails to meet the minimum requirement for any nine-weeks grading period will be placed on probation until the next nine-weeks grading period.

- * If, at the end of this probationary period, the high school or middle school student fails to meet the minimum requirements, he/she will be suspended from participation for the next nine-weeks grading period. At the end of the suspension, the student will be reinstated if he/she meets the minimum requirements.
- * Suspensions or reinstatements will occur five (5) days after progress reports or report cards are issued.
- * **Make-up work completed after the issuance of progress reports or report cards will not be considered for changing eligibility.**

2. During the probationary period, a weekly progress report from the student's teachers will be required to determine athletic eligibility upon receiving the mid-term progress report or report card.
3. Severe academic problems may result in long-term suspension from extracurricular participation. Such suspensions may prevent a student from trying out for a sport/activity.

MHSAA ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

The MHSAA requires students participating the MHSAA sanctioned competition to make "satisfactory progress towards graduation". Each school district shall determine the requirements for "satisfactory progress towards graduation" through its graduation requirements and shall interpret this rule according to its requirements.

According to Mississippi Law, students must maintain a grade point average of a least a 2.0 or "C" average in order to participate in interscholastic sports/activities. Grade point averages will be calculated at the conclusion of the first semester using the semester will be ineligible for the second semester.

At the end of the school year, each student's grade point average for the year will be assessed. This assessment will reflect the average for the entire year using the final grades for each course. A student who does not have a grade point average of at least a 2.0 or "C" average will be ineligible for the fall semester.

High school eligibility begins when a student enters ninth grade. To be eligible for the fall semester, a student must be promoted to ninth grade with at least an overall 2.0 or "C" average for all eighth grade course.

A student may become eligible for the second semester only once during his/her high school career if he/she fails the year-end average the previous year, by achieving at least an overall 2.0 or "C" average at the end of the first semester.

A 2.0 or "C" average may be calculated in two ways:

1. Grade point average: A-4, B-3, C-2, D-1, F-0
2. Numerical average: Place all semester or year-end averages in the local grading scale. If the overall average is "C" or better, the student is eligible.

JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOLASTIC REQUIREMENT

For participation on the junior high/middle school level, a student must be promoted (if not promoted, they are ineligible for the entire year) having passed the four core courses (English, Math, Science, and Social Studies), and the average of those four core courses must be a “C” or above. For spring semester eligibility, the student does not have to be passing all four core courses but the average of those four core courses must be a “C” or above.

Students who are allowed to participate on a high school team in any sport/activity shall not be allowed to participate on a junior high school team in the same sport/activity at the same time or at a later date.

SPECIAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Special Education students making satisfactory progress, according to the committees reviewing their Individual Education Plans (IEP) shall be academically eligible. Special education student must maintain attendance according to district policy, be assigned a date entering ninth grade corresponding to other students of that age and be subject to all other rules and regulations of MHSSA.

SUMMER SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Credits/Carnegie units earned by a student in an accredited summer school shall be considered in determining his/her scholastic eligibility. Only one credit per year may be used for eligibility. Course must be completed and recorded in the counselors’ office on or before the first day of the school year.

CREDIT RECOVERY AND/OR CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

Credit recovery courses and accredited correspondence courses may be accepted in determining eligibility provided the course has been completed and recorded prior to the first day of the following year/semester.

UNDUE HARDSHIP CASES

The Executive Committee shall have authority to set aside the effect of any eligibility rule except the age limit upon and individual student when, in its opinion, the rule works and undue hardship upon that student.

A. Serious injury or prolonged illness supported by a doctor’s records, or other conditions which are beyond the control of the student and his/her parents/guardian, that cause the student to miss school for a prolonged period of time may be considered valid reasons for requesting an undue hardship case.

B. It is understood that ordinary cases of ineligibility shall not be considered as coming under the hardship category. Inability to participate due to illness, injury or other medical causes shall not be considered a hardship. The fact that a student fails to pass the required number of courses, withdraws from school, is retained or repeats his/her schoolwork is not sufficient grounds for a favorable decision on an undue hardship case.

C. The appropriate time for hardship application is when the hardship is discovered, not after he/she has completed four consecutive years.

PROCEDURE: The executive Committee shall meet several times a year to consider requests to have the rules set aside for the benefit of individual students and shall consider such requests at the two meetings held for that purpose.

- A. The executive director shall rule on cases of eligibility prior to submitting the undue hardship case to the executive committee.
- B. Each application must be made in writing by the school principal, with the approval of the superintendent at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting and should contain all the facts pertaining to the case. Including sufficient data to make it possible to reach a decision without further investigation. Copies of all correspondence and documents pertinent to the case must be sent to the president, each executive committee member and four (4) copies to the MHSAA state office, including a photo static copy of the student's cumulative folder which shows all scholastic and attendance data since entry in the ninth grade. In cases involving medical questions, the request for exception must be accompanied by the statement(s) of one or more qualified medical expert(s) explaining the medical aspect of the cases.
- C. A personal appearance of the principal and/or superintendent before the executive committee may be requested.
- D. A school check in the amount of \$100.00, non-refundable, for each case requested must accompany each request.
- E. Each school will be given five(5) minutes to present any verbal information concerning their case. The principal will designate who will speak and how many but cannot exceed the time limit.
- F. The decision of the executive committee to set aside the effects of the rule in each individual case shall be by majority vote.
- G. The executive director shall notify the school, in writing, of the decision.

General Eligibility Rules, Junior High/Middle Schools

- 1. To be eligible to participate in interschool junior high/middle school activities, a contestant must:
 - A. Be a bona fide student having enrolled not later than the fifteenth day of any semester of participation, carry four basic courses and deport himself./herself satisfactorily.
 - B. A pupil must attend school in the school district of which his/her parents are actual bona fide residents.
 - C. Must pass their grade level by achieving at least a grade of 70 in four basic courses the previous year in order to be eligible to participate during the present year.
 - D. To be eligible for participation as a seventh grader, a student must be promoted from sixth to seventh grade and for participation as an eighth grader, a student must be promoted from seventh to eighth grade.
 - E. A pupil who is not eligible at the beginning of the school year may become eligible the second semester only once during the student's junior high school career by passing four basic courses with an average of 70

- F. The instructional program of the district is based on an instructional management plan/system which define core objects, standards or mastery, and criteria for the academic promotion/progression of students from one grade level to the next. The criteria prohibits the retention of students for extracurricular purposes.
- G. Have filed with the executive director at least five days prior to the first game or contest the eligibility list giving all information on the form required by the director.
- H. Age: Seventh grader must not have reached 14 years of age prior to August 1st. Eighth grader must not have reached 15 years of age prior to August 1st.
- I. Birth Certificate Required. Seventh, eighth, and ninth graders shall not be eligible to participate until a certified copy of his/her birth certificate, issued by the Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state in which he/she was born, has been presented to the principal or his/her designee of the school. Date of birth and birth certificate number shall be listed on the eligibility list along with other information the first time a student's name is submitted to the state office.
- J. Students must have been examined by a physician and have been declared physically fit. Nurse practitioners may give physicals to athletes provided that are doing so in compliance with state law and are operating under proper approved protocols, A physician or nurse practitioner must sign the certificate.
- K. A player shall not play in more than four quarters per week in football.
- L. Players cannot be transferred back to junior high/middle school once he/she plays on the high school varsity or "B" team.

GENERAL MHSAA RULES

1. The MHSAA Executive Committee and Legislative Council strongly recommend that any student participating in extracurricular activities who is indicted for a felony, not be allowed to participate during the time of indictment and /or conviction.
2. During the school's sports seasons, an independent team can be made up of no more than 50% of the number that makes up the starting number of players for that sports from any one school. The penalty for this violation is the loss of eligibility of all participants from the school that participated on the team. School personnel cannot coach an independent team during the school year. NOTE: Only 4 players per school may participate on a baseball or fast-pitch softball team, 2 basketball players, 5 soccer or slow-pitch players, etc. EXCEPTION: 5 starters in soccer must be identified by the coach. Independent teams may participate in summer league post season play through August.

BEHAVIORAL REQUIREMENTS/CONSEQUENCES

If a student-athlete fails to adhere to any of the standards, rules or procedures set forth by the school, any educational personnel, and/or the coaches, the student-athlete will face the following consequences:

SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL

- * 1st suspension from school: Miss one game and participate in several disciplinary activities after practice for one week.
- * 2nd suspension from school: Miss two games and participate in several disciplinary activities after practice for two weeks
- * 3rd suspension from school: Suspended from the team

OTHER OFFENSES

- * 1st offense towards a coach: A conference with coach and parents. Miss one or more games/activities depending on the severity of the offense.
- * 2nd offense towards a coach: Suspended from the team.
 - **Profanity towards a coach will automatically result in the student-athlete's suspension from the team.

Depending on the severity of the student-athlete's first referral, first suspension, or first offense towards a coach, a student-athlete may automatically be suspended from the team.

Any student-athlete who participates in a fight on a school campus, school property including a school bus or at a school-related event, including games and other activities are subject to being expelled from the team.

Any student-athlete who violates any school rule or procedure must have his/her teachers and principal complete a weekly behavioral form. This form will be designed to help the student-athlete's coach keep track of his/her behavior in class and out of class.

All student-athletes entering the 12th grade **MUST** have taken the ACT at least once before he/she can participate in extracurricular activities. Please see a guidance counselor for more information and instructions.

****SUSPENSION REFERS TO OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION AND IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION****

BEHAVIORAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PARENTS AND SPECTATORS

According to the Mississippi High School Activities Association, home teams are responsible for the conduct of fans.

1. If a parent or spectator uses profanity towards a player or coach, that parent will be suspended from all athletic events.
2. If a parent or spectator starts a quarrel or fight with another parent or spectator(S) all participants will be escorted from the game/activity and suspended from all athletic events for the remainder of the school year.

ATTENDANCE ELIGIBILITY

Daily attendance at school and practice is expected.

1. In order for a student-athlete to be eligible to participate in any after-school activity, he/she must be present at school **60%** of the day before the activity.
2. He/She must attend **ALL** scheduled practices (**ONLY IF A STUDENT HAS BEEN PRESENT THE ENTIRE SCHOOL DAY**).
3. If a student-athlete misses practice the day before a game, he/she will not participate in the game.
4. If a student-athlete has to miss practice, it is the student-athlete's responsibility to notify his/her coach at least an hour before practice begins. If he/she waits until practice begins, his/her reason for missing practice will not be accepted.
5. A student-athlete is granted one unexcused absence for the entire season. If a student-athlete has more than one unexcused absence, he/she will be subject to removal from the team.
6. A student-athlete who accumulates an excessive number of absences and tardy, as designated in the district's student handbook, will be placed on probation for a specified period of time.
7. If the attendance/tardy violations continue, the student-athlete will be suspended from athletic participation until it is clear that the attendance problem has been resolved.
8. Excused absences are the absences that will excuse the student-athlete from missing school.
9. A student who is absent from school should not come on campus. No student, if absent from school that day, unless previously approved by the principal, will be permitted to take part in any school-sponsored extracurricular practice, rehearsal, program or event. A student who is suspended (in-school or out-of-school) is not permitted to take part in any school-sponsored extracurricular activity. (As stated in the Amite County Student Handbook.)

OFF CAMPUS CODE OF CONDUCT

Consequences for off campus violations of the code of conduct will not be based on hearsay or rumors. When there is suspicion (a belief or opinion based on facts or circumstances) or when there is an admission of guilt by the athlete to a violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct, the Athletic Handbook rules will be enforced. Penalties for violations take effect immediately upon determination of any violation and will include games in succession: i.e., season schedule, tournaments, and state series, in order of competition. If a violation occurs in the last one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the sport's season, the student-athlete will no be considered in good standing and will therefore, forfeit all letters and awards for the sport' season. If a violation of the code of conduct occurs in the last portion of a season, and violator cannot fulfill the terms of his/her next sport of the same school year, i.e., if the suspension is administered for two football games with only one game remaining and the student also participates in basketball, the student will miss the first basketball game before the suspension can be lifted. If a typically one-sport student-athlete elects to participate in a new sport in order to serve a suspension, he/she will be required to complete the season in good standing. When serving a school suspension (including ISS or OSS), the student-athlete will be ineligible for all contests during the suspension period. Attendance at athletic events, whether a participant or spectator, and at practice is prohibited during the suspension period. If school rules are broken, the student-athlete will be subject to normal punishment for such misbehavior as well as subject to penalties in the athletic Handbook. In no case will the athletic rules circumvent or take the place of school rules.

INSURANCE

All students who participate in athletics in the Amite County School District are required to have medical insurance and must supply information verifying such before participating in practice and/or competition.

PARTICIPATING IN TWO SPORTS IN ONE SEASON

Student-athletes may participate in more than one sport during one season with approval of Athletic Director and Superintendent. Practice schedules will be worked out between the coaches. Consideration will be given to the importance of the sport (example: varsity versus non-varsity, play-offs versus regular season, games versus practice, district game versus non-district game). If contests conflicts, the Coach, Athletic Director, and Superintendent will decide which contest the student-athlete will participate. The student-athlete must realize that extra time for practice is necessary to compete in two sports in one season. The student-athlete must meet the requirements of both sports. If the requirements of one or both sports are not met, the student-athlete will be cut from the sport.

In a case whereby co-curricular versus athletics, first priority will be given to the area in which the students earns a grade unless a written agreement is signed by the coaches/directors/sponsors involved and the student's parent/guardian(s).

TEAM TRYOUTS POLICY

Each coach of varsity sports has his/her own policy on how he/she will choose his/her team. However, in order to be eligible to try-out for any extracurricular activity, the student must meet the following requirements:

1. 2.0 or higher GPA
2. Only one referral
3. No unexcused absence
4. Updated physical examination
5. Health Insurance
6. Parental Release Form with a parent/guardian's signature
7. Evaluation form must be completed by every teacher, principal, and past coach (if student participated in a sport prior to tryouts).

INTRODUCTION

This policy addresses students who participate in competitive extracurricular activities in Grades 7-12; it does not address the issue of drug or alcohol possession, which is addressed elsewhere in the district policy. Students who participate in competitive extracurricular activities are key to the school district's goal of providing the best possible educational program for all students. To achieve this goal, and to maximize the skills and talents of students, it is important that every student, employee, and parent understand the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. This policy statement clarifies the school district's position on student drug and alcohol use. The Board, however, reserves the right to depart from these policies and procedures developed thereto where it deems such is appropriate.

The incidence of substance abuse by students who participate in competitive extracurricular activity may be relatively small. Practical experience and research indicate that appropriate precautions are necessary. It is the belief of the Board that the benefits derived from the policy objectives outweigh the potential inconvenience to students. The Board solicits the understanding, cooperation, and support of all students and parents in implementing the policy.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

The purposes of this policy are to:

1. Create and maintain a safe, drug –free environment for all students by educating students about the serious physical, mental, and emotional harm caused by illegal drug use.
2. Offer students the privilege of competition and participation in extracurricular activities to abuse drugs.
3. Remove the influence of peer pressure from students who participate in extracurricular activities to abuse drugs.
4. Provide opportunities for treatment and counseling rehabilitation for students who participate in competitive extracurricular activities who have been identified as abusing drugs.
5. Reduce the likelihood of accidental personal injury or damage to property.

POLICY

The school district recognizes that drug and alcohol abuse presents special concerns about the dangerous combination by students participating in extra-curricular activities. While the abuse of alcohol, illegal drugs, and prescription and even non-prescription drugs are unsafe for any student, the physical demands placed upon activity students in practice and competition makes such abuse dangerous. The activity student's use of drugs or alcohol increases the risk of activity-related injuries by impaired judgment, coordination, and reaction.

The school district hereby implements a drug testing policy designed to provide early detection of drug use and to eradicate or reduce significantly the use and the influence of prohibited drugs, and other chemicals by students participating in competitive extra-curricular activities.

PROHIBITED DRUGS/ALCOHOL

Any drug that is listed in the group of drugs set forth in state law (see uniform Controlled Substances Law §4129-101 thru §41-29-187 Mississippi Code).

CONSENT/REFUSAL CONSENT

All activity students and their parent/guardian shall be asked to sign a consent form acknowledging receipt of this policy, authorizing the test for prohibited drugs, and consenting to release the test results, if positive/nonnegative, to the principal and the parent/guardian of the activity student. Results may also be released to the Superintendent, or designee, the athletic director, and activity/sports coach/director/sponsor on a need-to-know and confidential basis. If any activity student or parent/guardian declines to sign the consent form, the activity student shall be ineligible to participate in any competitive extracurricular activity sponsored by the school.

RANDOM TESTING

Students participating in a competitive activity will be tested on a random basis for use of prohibited drug and/or alcohol. The random testing shall not be announced or revealed prior to the time commencement and shall be conducted on a no-notice, surprise basis. Activity coaches/directors/sponsors shall not be involved in the collection, storage, labeling, or handling of specimens from random testing. The school district shall determine the percentage of extracurricular activity students to be tested at any one time.

SPECIMEN COLLECTION

The protocol for collecting and testing of breath, urine, saliva, and hair specimens or steroid use shall follow, as appropriate, the process of 49 CFR part 40, as amended, *the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991*.

The specimen test collecting agency shall conduct all aspects of the drug testing to safeguard the student's personal and privacy rights to the maximum degree practicable. The test specimen shall be obtained in a manner designed to minimize intrusiveness to the student. If at any time during the sampling procedure, the agency employees has reason to suspect that a student has tampered with the specimen, the procedure may be stopped and determination made if a new sample should be obtained.

The collection procedure shall maintain a trail of evidence and chain-of-custody for each specimen sample. A tamper-proof sealing system, with identifying numbers and labels, will be used for collecting, transporting the testing laboratory, and analyzing the specimen.

POSITIVE DRUG AND/OR ALCOHOL TEST RESULT CONSEQUENCES

If the initial test for drugs indicates a negative result, no further testing during this particular random sampling will occur unless there is a good reason to suspect the quality of the specimen sample. If the initial test indicates a positive result, a confirmation test will be conducted by a federally approved, independent laboratory. The laboratory will transmit written results of all confirmed positive test to the medical review officer (MRO). The MRO will be responsible for reviewing test results and confirming the results of the drug test, including the effect of prescription or over-the-counter medication which may provide a false positive result.

The MRO shall promptly notify the principal which students test positive for drugs, adulterants, or a substituted specimen. The principal of the school will schedule a conference between the student, parent/guardian, and the school to discuss the test results.

Any students who test positive in a confirmative substance test will be subject to discipline up to and including immediate suspension from all competitive students activities. Any student's specimen that is found by the collection site, laboratory, or MRO to have been altered or substituted will be considered equivalent to a positive test.

Violations for using illegal drugs that can be detected by a drug test will result in the following penalties shall be administered.

- **First Violation**

Upon the first violation, the student shall be suspended from all competitive extracurricular activities for a minimum of two weeks. If the positive test occurs during the off-season, the student must submit results of a negative test prior to being allowed to participate in the activity when it resumes.

The student shall be required to undergo counseling, which, as a minimum, consists of five (5) sessions over a two-week period. A school counseling staff member will provide counseling services.

If the parent prefers a non-school agency for counseling the parent will be responsible for paying the counseling agency and shall have the agency furnish an appropriate report to the school.

- **Second Violation**

Upon the second violation, the student will be suspended from all competitive extracurricular activity for the remainder of the school year in which the violation occurs. The duration of the suspension shall be for a minimum of eight weeks and shall carry over to the ensuing school year, if necessary, thereby precluding the student from participating in any other every or activity during the eight-week minimum suspension period.

Before being able to participate in any school-sponsored competitive extracurricular activity, the student (i) shall test negative for prohibited drug use, and (ii) shall have undergone mandatory counseling with a school counselor, which, as a minimum, shall consist of ten (1) sessions over the eight week minimum suspension period.

If the parent prefers a non-school agency for counseling, the parent will be responsible for paying the counseling agency and shall have the agency furnish an appropriate report to the school

- **Third Violation**

Upon the third violation, the student will be suspended from participating in all extracurricular activity for a full calendar year.

Before being able to participate in any school sponsored competitive extracurricular activity, the student (i) shall test negative for prohibited drug use, and (ii) shall have undergone mandatory counseling with a school counselor, which, as a minimum, shall consist of twenty (20) sessions during the period of suspension from the activity.

If the parent prefers a non-school agency for counseling, the parent will be responsible for paying the counseling agency and shall have the agency furnish an appropriate report to the school. If the student receives a positive test for drugs as required for re-admittance to any competitive extracurricular activity, the student shall be barred, permanently, from participating in any school-sponsored competitive extracurricular activity.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All information, interviews, reports, statements, memoranda and test results, written or otherwise, received by the school district through its' drug testing program are confidential communications and may not be used or received in evidence, obtained in discovery, or disclosed in any public or private proceedings except in the following:

As directed by the specific, written consent of the student, if eighteen year of age or older, or the parent/guardian or a minor student authorizing release of the information to an identified person/agency. As requested to a covered student decision maker in lawsuit, grievance, or other proceeding initiated by or on behalf of the individual.

As mandated by the court(s)

When the student graduates or exits the school, all records related to illicit drug use and screening shall be expunged.

NOTICE

Before implementation of this policy, reasonable notice of the policy will be made to all students and the parent/guardian of students.

ENFORCEMENT

This policy shall become operative upon approval of the Board.

IMPLEMENTATION

The superintendent is authorized to prepare any administrative regulations and procedures for implementation of this policy. Furthermore, the superintendent is directed to provide a report annually to the

Board regarding implementation of this policy. Legal References;

- Veronia School District (Oregon) 47 JV. Action, 515 U.S. 644 (1995). •Miller v. Wilkes, 72 F.3d 574 (8th Circuit 1999).

- Board of Education of Independent School District No. 92 of Pottawatomie County (Oklahoma), et.al. vs. Lindsay Earls, 536 U.S. 882 (2002).

- §37-11-18 Mississippi Code 1972 Annotated.

- §41-29-101 through 41-29-187 (The Uniform Controlled Substance Law) Mississippi Code 1972 Annotated

AMITE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Parental Consent Form

Hello Parents and Student-Athletes:

It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to work with you and your child as we begin another productive journey training for another productive season. Below, you will find pertinent information regarding your child's participation in activities at Amite County High School. Please read all information diligently. After reading this consent form, you and the student-athlete must sign at the bottom and initial throughout the form.

This consent form is due back the day after it is sent home. The student-athlete cannot participate in any activities until this form has been signed and returned to the coach/sponsor.

1. Athletic Agreement

I, the parent/guardian and the student-athlete, have read, understand, and agree to the requirements listed in this consent form.

Student-Athlete's Initials _____

Parent/Guardian's Initials _____

2. Medical History/Emergency Information

I, the parent/guardian and the student-athlete, have completed the medical history and emergency information form and agree that the information provided is correct/accurate and true to the best of my knowledge.

3. Consent to Treat

I, the parent/guardian, understand that coaches/sponsors are CPR certified and that the school may have certified athletic trainer on hand. I understand that these people are qualified to assess, treat, and rehabilitate some and/or most injuries my student-athlete may incur while participating in Amite County School District interscholastic activities. I give permission for the coaches/sponsors and/or certified trainer to assess treat, rehabilitate and refer my student-athlete to a physician or emergency room as deemed appropriate.

Student-Athlete's Initials _____

Parent/Guardian's Initials _____

4. Risk Acknowledgement Statement

I, the parent/guardian, understand that risks involved in athletics range from minor to severe. I realize that the safety rules, procedures, sport, coaching instructions, not the athletic training care provided to the student-athletes will guarantee safety or prevent injuries my student-athlete might sustain. I further agree to accept these risks as a condition of my student-athletes participation in an activity. I agree not to hold Amite County School District, its coaches/sponsors or athletic training staff responsible for any injury, loss, or damage that occurs to my student-athlete as a result of sports/activity participation.

Student-Athlete's Initials _____

Parent/Guardian's Initials _____

5. Academic/Behavior

I, the parent/guardian and student-athlete, agree to the standards and requirements of being a student-athlete. A student-athlete is one who performs above and beyond the regular expectations of students. A student-athlete is one who performs above and beyond the regular expectations of students. A student-athlete carries himself/herself with a strong sense of **PRIDE, DIGNITY, INTEGRITY, HONESTY, DISCIPLINE, CLASS** and **RESPECT**. A student-athlete is not a FOLLOWER. He or she is a **LEADER**. A student-athlete does not conform to any negative expectations of his or her peers but to the positive expectations of his/her educational leaders and his/her educational goals. A student-athlete is determined to beat and defy the odds by becoming **LIFE-LONG SCHOLARLY LEARNERS AND SCHOLARLY LEADERS**. A student-athlete is always a **STUDENT** first and an **ATHLETE** second.

I, the parent/guardian and student-athlete, know that in order to participate in an activity program, the student-athlete must maintain a 2.0 grade point average or better and maintain a clean discipline record throughout the school year. Failure to comply with these terms will result in the following consequences:

ACADEMIC CONSEQUENCES:

If my (the student-athlete) grade point average falls below a 2.0, I will accept the following consequences and know that I will be put on academic probation or academic suspension.

TWO D's or one F: Academic probation (no participation will be allowed during this probationary period) until the progress report for the following nine weeks is given and an improvement has occurred. (That is a 5 week period meaning the student will miss several games.) If there has not been an improvement when the student receives his/her progress report, the student-athlete will be suspended from the team.

BEHAVIOR CONSEQUENCES:

If I, the student-athlete, fail to adhere to any of the standards, rules, or procedures set forth by the school and any educational leader in the classroom and outside the classroom, I will accept the following consequences and know that disciplinary actions will be taken by the school and the coach/sponsor.

1st Referral: Miss one game and participate in a disciplinary activity after practice for one week

2nd Referral: Miss two games and participate in a disciplinary activity after practice for two weeks

3rd Referral: Suspension from the team.

(Suspension refers to being sent home, ISS, or BEP)

OR

1st Offense Towards a Coach/Sponsor or Teammate: A conference with coach/sponsor and parents. Miss one or more games depending on the severity of the offense.

2nd Offense Towards a Coach/Sponsor or Teammate: **SUSPENSION** from team.

Any student-athlete who participates in a fight will be suspended from participating in extracurricular activities for a period of up to one year. Depending on the severity of the infraction, a student may be suspended from participation for the first infraction. The athletic director and principal will make this determination.

NOTE: If a student violates the law while attending an out-of-town activity and is detained by law enforcement, the parent will be responsible for working with law enforcement to gain the student's release.

ABSENCES

Excused absences are the only absences that will excuse the student-athlete from missing practice. Excused absences are defined in your student handbook.

No student, if absent from school that day, unless previously excused by the principal, will be permitted to take part in any school-sponsored extracurricular program or practice.
(See page 13 of Student Handbook)

STEPS TO FOLLOW WHEN ABSENT FROM SCHOOL

Have a parent or guardian write an excuse giving name, date and absence and reason for Absence (only one parental excuse is allowed and the excuse has to be signed by the parent/guardian only). If a note is not presented, the absence will be unexcused. If an absence is due to necessary travel, death in the family, doctor's appointment, court appearance, or any other legal excuse, the parent or guardian must notify the coach three days prior to the absence. The reason and the date of the absence must be included in the letter.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

1st Unexcused Absence: Conference with coach/sponsor and disciplinary activity after practice.

2nd Unexcused Absence: Conference with coach/sponsor and parent and sever disciplinary activity after practice, miss on game

3rd Unexcused Absences: Suspension from the team.

Any student-athlete who refuses to participate in any of the disciplinary activities given to him/her due to any of the above offenses will automatically be suspended from the team.

Disciplinary activities will be issued according to the student-athlete's physical abilities and physical health.

I, the parent/guardian and the student-athlete, have read, fully understand and agree to all of the above statements. I also acknowledge receipt of a copy of the Amite County School District's Activities Handbook and have read the rules concerning eligibility and conduct for Amite County School District's student-athletes. I understand the rules and realize that I am subject to disciplinary measures should I violate them. I agree to participate and conduct myself in accordance with the rules of our athletic/activity program and with any other specific rules of my coach.

Student-Athlete's Name (Print) _____ **Date** _____

Parent/Guardian's Name (Print) _____ **Date** _____

Student-Athlete's Signature _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____

Coach's Signature _____

This form is invalid unless both the parent/guardian and the student-athlete's signatures are obtained.