



School District of Manatee County

Middle School
Interscholastic Athletics

HANDBOOK

2012-13

EdVantage

Inspiring Our Students to Learn, Dream and Achieve.

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Mission

While preparing students for high school athletics, the School District of Manatee County's Middle School Interscholastic Athletics Program will inspire students with a passion for physical fitness, while promoting character development, sportsmanship, and high academic performance.

Each middle school will offer separate boys' and girls' teams for the following four interscholastic athletic sports:

Basketball
Cross Country
Volleyball
Soccer



General Guidelines

1. A student on a team should be in attendance at every scheduled practice unless an emergency prevents participation. The coach should be made aware of the reason for an absence so that he/she will not be depending on the athlete that day.
2. A student must be in attendance in school for a minimum of one-half day, unless documented (doctor's note, field trip, subpoena, etc.), in order to practice or participate in a contest on that day, unless approved in advance by the Athletic Director or Principal.
3. All athletes should present a neat appearance at all school and athletic functions.
4. Except for cross country, all athletes will ride to and from road games on a school bus or charter bus under the charge of the coach. Parents or guardians may transport their own child if proper documentation is provided and if it is cleared with the athletic director and a school administrator in advance and in writing.
5. One administrator and the athletic director shall be responsible for supervision at all volleyball, basketball and soccer home games and for both cross country events.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

1. Insure that students arrive at practices and competitions on time.
2. Insure that students are picked up from practices and competitions on time.
3. Attend as many competitions as possible.
4. Exhibit good sportsmanship at all competitions:
 - Do not engage in conversations with players during competitions/games.
 - Make only positive comments to students and coaches.
 - Remain in the spectator area/stands unless you are scheduled as a volunteer.
 - Use appropriate language at all times.
 - Show respect to all other spectators, particularly those cheering for the opposing team.
 - Please do not confront others who are exhibiting inappropriate behavior, but report them to the School Resource Officer, the Principal, Assistant Principal or Athletic Director.
5. Supervise small children and keep them off of the court or field of play. Children should not be allowed to wander the school or campus or play under the bleachers.



Concerns and Questions

If a student and/or parent has questions or concerns regarding a specific team, please comply with the following procedures.

1. First, meet with the coach to discuss the questions or concerns.
2. Second, meet with the athletic director if you still have questions or concerns.
3. If the issue is not resolved, you may request to meet with the principal or designee.

Intramurals vs. Interscholastic Athletics

The interscholastic athletic program is separate from the intramural program. Intramurals are ongoing for the entire school year and open to all students. For intramurals, teams compete against teams within their own school. Ideally, intramural programs coordinate with interscholastic sports in that they might lead up to tryouts. Physicals are not required for participation in intramural athletics. Each school sets the criteria and eligibility for its own intramural program. Eligibility for interscholastic athletics is set by the District and follows FHSAA guidelines because teams compete against teams from other schools.

Eligibility

Eligibility for Participation in Middle School Interscholastic Sports is governed by the Florida High School Athletics Association and the School District of Manatee County Board Policies.

Each coach will be responsible for checking the rules and regulations, which affect the eligibility of his/her athletes.

Each coach must see that his/her *basketball, cross country, volleyball and soccer squad* **eligibility list** is submitted to the Athletic Director **two weeks prior to the first game of the season**, at which time the list is due to the Athletic Director at Nolan middle school and Wendy Loge at the School Support Center.

All names must be spelled correctly on the eligibility list. Nicknames are not allowed. It is the duty of each coach to see that the names of all athletes on his/her squad are listed on the eligibility form.

To be eligible for participation in interscholastic athletics, the student:

1. Must be regularly enrolled and in regular attendance at school. A home education or charter school student must submit a written declaration of his/her intention to participate in athletics to the school at which the student would be permitted to participate prior to the first day of practice (the public school to which the student would be assigned according to district school attendance area policies or as approved through school choice policies and procedures).
2. Must carry a normal class load, maintain satisfactory classroom work (**minimum 2.0 grade point average on previous quarter's report card**) and **maintain a satisfactory conduct record (NO 4's in Citizenship on the previous quarter's report card)**.
3. Must be less than **15 years 9 months of age**. On the day a student reaches this age, regardless of when that day is, the student becomes ineligible to participate on the middle school level.
4. Must obtain **signed permission** from his/her parents or guardian on a form provided by the school.
5. Must undergo a **pre-participation physical evaluation** and be certified as being physically fit for participation in interscholastic athletics. The physical evaluation is valid for one year from the date that it was administered, after which time the student must successfully undergo another physical evaluation in order to continue participation. The annual physical must be administered by a licensed physician, a licensed osteopathic physician, a licensed chiropractic physician or a certified advanced registered nurse practitioner, and shall be valid for a period not to exceed one calendar year from the date of the practitioner's signature. Sports physicals should be dated after June 1; otherwise, on the date that the physical expires (one year from the date that it was administered), the student will immediately become ineligible for participation.

6. Must be an amateur. This means that the student must not accept money, gift or donation for participating in a sport, or use a name other than his/her own when participating.
7. Must display good sportsmanship and follow the rules of competition before, during and after every contest in which the student participates. If not, the student may be barred from participation for a period of time.
8. Must not provide false information to gain eligibility.

Additional Requirements for Participation:

1. A student may not participate if serving an out of school suspension the day of competition.
2. A student must attend a minimum of one half of a day of school to practice or participate in an athletic contest.
3. All participants must have appropriate paperwork (physical form and parent consent form) on file in the athletic director's office before the beginning of practice. Before a student is permitted to draw equipment, practice or play in an interscholastic contest(s), the student must have a medical examination and parent consent form completed, signed, and on file with the coach, with a copy of each filed in the Athletic Director's office.
4. A student transferring into a school must meet eligibility requirements. The student cannot take the spot of an existing team player on the roster.
5. Students are selected for the teams at the discretion of the coach.

Athletic Training Rules

1. No use of tobacco products.
2. An athlete knowingly possessing, using, transferring, or being under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind, or any facsimile, regardless of content, on or off campus, will receive severe consequences, to include expulsion from the team.
3. Middle school students who are caught with drugs will be suspended six weeks from participation in all interscholastic athletics and must complete the six weeks SAFE drug education program with a parent or guardian in order to participate in interscholastic athletics in the future.
4. Any action by an athlete that causes embarrassment to the team, athletic department or the school may result in disciplinary consequences.
5. If a student is charged with a criminal offense, the Principal may suspend the student from interscholastic athletics until the charge is adjudicated, at which time the Principal may then determine whether to reinstate the student. Students arrested for a felony, or for what would be a felony if the student were an adult, may lose eligibility to participate in athletics. Athletes are required to self-report such arrests to their Principal and Athletic Director or Coach within 48 hours of the arrest. The Principal will review information about the arrest to determine, after conferring with the Director of School Management, whether the student should be suspended from all extracurricular activities, and possibly suspended from school or reassigned to an alternative placement. Failure to self-report may result in suspension from all extracurricular activities for a minimum of one calendar year and suspension from school or reassignment to an alternative placement.

6. A student's conviction in "adult" court or judgment of "delinquency" in a juvenile court for any act that would have been felonious in "adult" court will mandate loss of eligibility to participate in any student activity for the duration of the years enrolled in a Manatee County public school from the time of conviction. After one calendar year following conviction, the student may request a review of his/her eligibility by the principal.
7. A student's conviction in "adult" court or judgment of "delinquency" in a juvenile court for the following misdemeanors will mandate loss of eligibility to participate in any interscholastic athletics activities for six months from the time of conviction: assault or battery, possession of concealed weapon, lewdness or indecent exposure, theft, drug possession/sale. After three calendar months following conviction, the student may request a review of his/her eligibility by the principal.
8. It is expected that the student athlete will self-report arrests/convictions to his/her coach.
9. Senate Bill 228, 2011 requires that a student who wears clothing that exposes underwear or body parts in an indecent or vulgar manner or that disrupts the orderly learning environment while on the grounds of a public school during the regular school day is subject to the following disciplinary actions:

1st Offense: Verbal warning and parent or guardian contacted.

2nd Offense: Ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for a period of time not to exceed 5 days and parent meeting.

3rd and Subsequent Offenses: In-school suspension not to exceed 3 days, ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for a period not to exceed 30 days, parent/guardian contacted by phone, and a written letter sent to parent or guardian regarding the ISS and ineligibility for participation in extracurricular activities.

Examples: attire advertising alcohol or drugs, baggy pants, exposed underwear, inappropriate tattoos, revealing clothes, T-shirt with lewd artwork

10. In matters pertaining to personal conduct in which interscholastic athletic competition is not involved, the principal of the member school which the student attends shall be the judge as to whether the student may play on the school's team.

Athletic Insurance

Student accidents are just that and are not necessarily the fault of the district. The School District of Manatee County provides all K-12 students with basic student accident insurance coverage through Markel and MCA Administrators. This accident insurance is a supplemental or excess plan and therefore pays only a portion of the billed charges for medical care. Student accident insurance provided by the District pays as secondary whether the student has health insurance coverage or not. The insurance covers student accidents on a blanket basis for school time activities and while the student is participating in school-sponsored and supervised activities.

The policy provides for loss due to a covered injury and is subject to a deductible of \$250.00 and has a maximum benefit of \$25,000 for any one accident. Provided that the treatment begins within 90 days from the date of the injury, benefits will be paid for covered medical expenses incurred within 52 weeks from the date of the injury, up to the maximum benefit per service as provided in the policy.

Claim forms are provided once they are entered into the Student Accident Data Base at the student's school, or can be obtained through Risk Management (Karen Coker, Risk Management Specialist, 708-8770, ext. 2058).

Participation Forms

For each student who will be participating in interscholastic athletics, a signed form must be on file: Mandatory Student Insurance/Athletic Participation Fee Information for Parents of Middle School Students. This form indicates that the parents/guardians acknowledge that they have received information regarding coverage and benefits provided under the athletic student accident insurance policy, including information on filing a claim. Students need only one form on file. They do not need a separate form for each sport. MCA Administrators does not actually recognize a student until a claim has been filed. Parents may call MCA Administrators, 1-800-427-9308 (# on claim form) to validate coverage students of the School District of Manatee County.

Reporting Student Accidents and/or Injuries

Any school-connected injury shall be reported to the coach and the incident report must be filed with the Athletic Director and the school nurse. The accident must be reported through the Student Accident Reporting intranet system. If a parent wishes to file a claim under the student accident insurance, the school should provide a claim form for the parent to complete. The claim form instructs the parent on the filing process. There is one small portion to be signed by the school administrator. However, the school is NOT involved in any other aspect of filing the claim. All correspondence is between the parent and MCA Administrators. Student accident insurance claim forms must be submitted within 90 days of the date that the student first received medical care.

Handling Medical Problems or Accidents

If a student has any special medical problem, the Athletic Director must be informed. Should an injury be discovered after the athlete has returned home, he/she should go to a physician, but then must report the injury to the Coach and/or Athletic Director prior to the next participation. The Coach must file an accident report with the school.

In the event that a student is injured at practice or at a game:

1. Administer minor first aid, and
2. Call 911 for an ambulance, if hospital care is necessary.
3. Notify the parent/guardian. If unable to contact the parent/guardian, notify the family physician.
4. Report the injury to the Athletic Director and/or Principal immediately.
5. Have a school board employee accompany the injured player to the hospital if the parent/guardian is not available.

A student's return to practice or play following a serious illness or injury must be preceded by a written medical clearance from a physician.

Uniforms

Basic uniforms are provided by the school district and must be returned to the coach after each game:

Basketball	Shirt and shorts
Cross Country	Singlet and shorts
Volleyball	Shirt and shorts
Soccer	Shirt, shorts and socks

Students are responsible for replacement cost of a uniform if lost or damaged and unusable. Students are responsible for their own shoes, socks, shin guards, and other attire needed in addition to the basic uniform.

Athletic Equipment

Any athletic equipment purchased beyond the budget supplied by the district is the responsibility of the school. Equipment might include: stop watches, cones, knee pads, volleyball referee stand, volleyball net, soccer goals, rule books, anti-whip basketball nets, and balls.

Transportation

All athletes will ride to and from road games with their team, under the charge of a coach. Parents/Guardians may request that they take their own students home after a game, but only if the parent/guardian signs a release. The Athletic Director, coach or school administrator must witness the parent/guardian actually signing the release in person.

Coaches must ride to and from the competition with the team. Bus transportation is provided for basketball, volleyball, and soccer games. Transportation is not provided for practices or for cross country. The school's athletic director will arrange for bus transportation. When arranging for bus transportation, coaches should take into consideration the time needed for dressing and preparing for the game. Teams can take the floor or field fifteen minutes prior to the beginning of the game.

Booster Clubs

Booster clubs are not allowed at the middle school level.

Cheerleading Squads

Cheerleading is not a middle school interscholastic sports offering; therefore, squads or teams are not allowed at games. Cheerleading "clubs" are also not allowed as school-sponsored activities. However, a team mascot is permissible at the Principal's discretion.

Sportsmanship

Coaches are the leaders and role models for the team. They set the standards and expectations and are the role models for the athletes to look to and follow by example.

Students, coaches, administrators, spectators and all other persons connected directly or indirectly with a member school, as well as contest officials, shall practice and promote the highest standards of sportsmanship and ethics at all times directly or indirectly related in any manner to interscholastic relationships or events, whether prior to, during or following such relationship or event. It is the responsibility of each principal to insure that those individuals connected with his/her school adhere to these standards. The Commissioner shall have the authority to investigate allegations and incidents of unsportsmanlike conduct or conduct which adversely affects the ethics of competition in connection with interscholastic contests. The Commissioner shall have full authority to invoke penalties against a member school and/or individuals whose conduct in connection with an interscholastic contest violates these principals or ethics.

The disqualification of a coach, student or other representative of a member school from an athletic contest as a result of unsportsmanlike conduct shall subject his/her school to appropriate disciplinary action. It is expected that each member school will exercise control over each individual student and coach to the extent necessary to ensure safety and fair play for all participants.

The removal of a team or individual competitor from an athletic contest by a coach or administrator because of his/her dissatisfaction with contest officials or other conditions of the contest shall be considered an act of gross unsportsmanlike conduct. Athletes engaging in gross unsportsmanlike behavior may also be subject to school disciplinary action.

In the event of gross misbehavior or unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of a team or individual officially representing the member school at an interscholastic athletic tournament, meet or contest, the Commissioner shall have the authority to deny further participation to such team or individual.

The home school administration is responsible for the control of spectators during an athletic contest. The visiting school administration assists with the control of its own spectators.



Spirited competition is best demonstrated when each participant and spectator behaves in a responsible and respectful manner toward team players, opponents, and contest officials.

The officials assigned to officiate the contest are responsible for the on-the-court or on-the-field conduct of the contest itself. In the event a spectator or spectators interfere with the conduct of a contest or cause an official to become distracted through continual, unrelenting verbal abuse, the official should immediately stop the action and report the offending spectator(s) to the home school administration or the nearest uniformed security officer and ask that they be restrained or removed from the facility.

If the home school administration or uniformed security is unwilling or unable to comply and the official does not believe the contest can be safely continued, the official must declare the contest ended at that point. Under no circumstance should an official ever confront, challenge, rebuke or threaten a spectator, or make gestures of any kind toward a spectator before, during or after a contest.

Coaches should insure that each athlete receives a fair amount of playing time over the course of the season.

All coaches, players and fans must adhere to the policies and procedures of the Florida High School Athletic Association.

Coach Expectations

All coaches are expected to:

1. Cooperate with one another.
2. Communicate with each other.
3. Arrange for bus transportation to and from competitions.
4. Plan for and attend all practices and contests.
5. Care for equipment, uniforms, and facilities.
6. Supervise athletes.
7. Admirably represent the school.
8. Monitor locker rooms.
9. Maintain security of the facilities.
10. Communicate with parents before and during the season.
11. Complete required paperwork appropriately and on time.
12. Promote athletic participation.
13. Check eligibility.
14. Promote good sportsmanship (meet with students and parents prior to the season to inform them about sportsmanship expectations).
15. Insure that non-school board facilities utilized for practices or competitions are left in the condition in which they were found.
16. Home team will be responsible for finding clock operators and scorebook/visitor book person.
17. Keep a record of uniforms handed out and returned
18. Secure all equipment and uniforms at the end of season.



Stipends for Coaches:

Sport	Girls	Boys
Basketball	\$750	\$750
Cross Country	\$400	\$400
Soccer	\$750	\$750
Volleyball	\$750	\$750

If separate coaches cannot be hired for boys and girls, then a coach may receive both stipends for coaching both teams. However, the teams must practice at separate times or on separate days.

High school coaches are not allowed to coach or volunteer to coach the same sport at a middle school.

Coaching Eligibility

All middle school coaches must be certified teachers or certified coaches. All coaches, including certified employees, must be certified in CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) and Emergency First Aid.



High school coaches are not allowed to coach the same sport at a middle school.

Certified employees who are coaches need valid certification in CPR and First Aid.

The Athletic Director must notify Roma Glisson in Human Resources if a coach needs to be hired so she can make sure they are qualified to be hired. Non-faculty coaches must apply online through Human Resources in the PATS system for coaching positions. Additionally, non-faculty coaches must have certification in CPR and First Aid, as well as fingerprints.

Non-certificated employees who will be serving as coaches and receiving supplements for a coaching position must contact Roma Glisson in Human Resources to apply for a coaching certificate. If fingerprints are more than one year old, the coach will need to be fingerprinted again. Requirements are as follows:

- Step 1 Application in PATS system verifying coaching qualifications.
- Step 2 Application for certification (\$75 check made out to Department of Education).
- Step 3 Fingerprints (\$90 fee payable by money order.)
- Step 4 A valid CPR and First Aid card issued by the American Red Cross or American Heart Association.

A three year temporary certificate will be issued. During the three years, the coach must meet the requirement of nine semester hours in athletic coaching to include the areas specified below before applying for a five year professional certificate.

- Three semester hours in care and prevention of athletic injuries, and the effect and dangers of drug use, including performance enhancing drugs.
- Three semester hours in coaching theory.
- A course in theory and practice of coaching a specific sport.

If the requirements are not completed by the end of the three year temporary certificate, the coach will not be allowed to work.

Volunteer coaches must apply through the PATS system, must be fingerprinted through Human Resources, and must obtain CPR and First Aid cards before they may begin coaching. Volunteers should contact Roman Glisson in HR to arrange for the fingerprinting (\$90 fee payable by money order). A valid CPR and First Aid card issued by the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association must also be submitted before the volunteer will be allowed to coach.

Parents who volunteer to assist with coaching must go through Raptor screening unless they have already gone through district fingerprinting. Parent volunteers who have not been fingerprinted CANNOT be alone with or supervise students. They must always be within the sight of the coach.



Coaching Endorsement

State Administrative Rule 6A – 4.0282

1. Certification in another subject; and
2. Nine (9) semester hours in athletic coaching to include the areas specified below:
 - a. Three (3) semester hours in care and prevention of athletic injuries and the effects and dangers of drug use, including performance enhancing drugs;
 - b. Three (3) semester hours in coaching theory;
 - c. A course in theory and practice of coaching a specific sport; and
3. A valid cardiopulmonary resuscitation certificate issued by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross.

Specific authority 1001.02, 1012.55, 1012.56 FS. Law implemented 1001.02, 1012.54, 1012.55, 1012.56 FS. History – New 12-4-89, 10-26-2005.

School District of Manatee County (proposed) Endorsement Plan:

1. Ethics Training (online)* -- Free
2. CPR Training – American Red Cross -- Must be completed prior to any coaching (American Red Cross pays for five employees per school. Schools must pay for any additional staff to be trained.)
2. NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course (online) – Cost -- \$50
3. NFHS/ARC First Aid for Coaches Course (online) – Cost -- \$45
4. NFHS Sport Specific Component (online) – Cost – under \$75

All coaches in the School District of Manatee County must hold a Florida State Certificate. It can be either an academic or an Athletic Coaching certificate. Every coach must have a valid CPR/First Aid card, or the coach cannot be involved with the students. Each coach must complete a check sheet, which is signed off by Roma Glisson in Human Resources prior to beginning of coaching. All volunteers must be fingerprinted and must hold a valid CPR/First Aid card before they may be allowed to work with the students. CPR and First Aid classes are offered at the East Campus of Manatee Technical Institute. Contact Marilyn Ingold or Lisa Scotti (752-8100, ext. 250 or 256).

Athletic Director Responsibilities

Stipend for Interscholastic Sports Athletic Director: \$1,000

1. Attend Athletic Director meetings.
2. Coordinate distribution of uniforms.
3. Manage interscholastic athletics budget and purchases of equipment.
4. Work with coaches to schedule buses.
5. Work with principal to insure adequate administrative, and if appropriate, School Resource Officer coverage at games.
6. Monitor compliance for eligibility, sportsmanship, and regulations. Insure that coaches submit accurate rosters with verified eligibility of students.
7. Provide necessary forms for coaches to distribute (permission, physicals etc.).
8. Promote tryouts and athletic events.
9. Educate students and parents about sportsmanship and appropriate behavior.
10. Coordinate facility usage and practice schedules.
11. Attend clinics with coaches.
12. Insure coaches are certified in CPR and Emergency First Aid. Send a copy of the Coach's CPR cards, with name and date visible, to Roma Glisson, in Human Resources.
13. Coordinate accessibility of AED during practices and games.
14. Become the expert in coordinating assigned area of responsibility (see page 13).
15. Coordinate concessions and ticket sales, will then assign the coach of the home team to find clock operators and scorebook/visitor book person done by adult or high school age appropriate only. The clock person, book person, and SRO may be paid from gate fees proceeds following the school's proper bookkeeping procedures. All proceeds must be deposited through the bookkeeper. Cash cannot be removed from gate proceeds to make emergency purchases or to pay the SRO or others assisting at games.

Athletic Director District Coordinator Responsibilities

Assignments of responsibilities are made to each of the Athletic Directors in order to promote sustainability of programs and so that everyone has a share of the work load in coordinating middle school athletics district-wide. The assignment will be permanent to each school. (If two schools wish to switch responsibilities at a future date, it must be mutually agreed between the two schools, and approved by the Director of Secondary Schools).

Braden River	Coordinator for Volleyball; Expert; Scheduler
Buffalo Creek	Coordinator for Soccer; Expert; Scheduler
Haile	Cross Country Race Director and Liaison with Bradenton Runners Club; scheduling for Cross Country
Harllee	Uniforms, Trophies and Awards
Johnson	Officials (scheduling, contracts, payroll paperwork)
King	Physicals (includes working to arrange for free physicals), Insurance, Liaison with Risk Management
Lee	Coordinator for Basketball; Expert; Scheduler
Lincoln	Coaching Certification Expert and liaison between schools and HR; Coordinator for Volunteer Coaches; liaison to high school Athletic Directors.
Nolan	CEO of Eligibility
Sugg	Liaison for Parks and Recreation to arrange fields for soccer and Cross Country

Practices

Coaches can practice their teams on any day except Sunday.

Divisions

Middle schools are divided into two divisions for basketball, volleyball, and soccer.

Gulf

Buffalo Creek
King
Lee
Lincoln
Sugg

Ocean

Braden River
Haile
Harllee
Johnson
Nolan

Each school will participate in one inter-division game each season. This cross division game will NOT count on the record for determining playoffs.

Basketball

Fifteen players may be on the eligibility roster, but only twelve players can dress out and play.

Basketball games will be four six-minute quarters, with no running clock.

The host school must provide water and cups for the visiting team. The host team must also provide a changing area with shower and water or Gatorade for the referees. If possible, referees should be provided a snack between the boys and girls games.

The gate fee is \$2.00 for students and \$3.00 for adults.

Students are not allowed to wear any jewelry or metal clips.



Cross Country

The course for cross country is two miles for both the boys and the girls. The maximum number for a team is 15.

Practices may be on school grounds or off campus. Students must be monitored at all times and the practice course must be safe from dangerous crossings and traffic.

During the race, students cannot wear any jewelry or metal clips while running. However, a runner is allowed to wear one watch. Runners must wear shirts (singlets) for practices and meets. Boys are not allowed to run shirtless, and girls are not allowed to run with just a sports bra on top.

Scoring will follow the same format as high school cross country, according to FHSAA guidelines. The top five girls' teams and the top five boys' teams will move on to the championships. In addition, the top three runners from the remaining teams will run in the championships.



Cross country running is scored on a team basis. Points are awarded to individual runners equal to the position in which they cross the finish line (first place gets 1 point, second place gets 2 points, etc.). Only the first 5 runners in a team are counted towards that team's score. Teams are awarded ranks based on the number of points their top 5 runners earn, with lowest being best. In the event of a tie, the visitor is decided by whose sixth runner finished first.

The lowest possible score in a five-to-score match is 15 (1+2+3+4+5), achieved by a team's runners finishing in each of the top five positions. If there is a single opposing team, then the team would have a score of 40 (6+7+8+9+10), which can be considered a "sweep" for the winning team. A team's sixth and seventh runners are known as "pushers" or "displacers," as their place can count ahead of other runners. In the example above, if there are two non-scoring runners and they come in 6th and 7th overall, the opponent's score would be 50 (8+9+10+11+12). Accordingly, the official score of a forfeited dual meet is 15-50.

Teams with fewer than five runners do not earn a team score.

For the championships only, trophies will be awarded to each first place cross country team and runner-up team. The top seven girl and boy runners will receive medals.

Parents are responsible for providing student transportation to cross country events.

Schools must provide drinks for their own teams, making sure that coolers are labeled with the school name.

Volunteers who are not school district employees or who are law enforcement employees must be checked through the Raptor system before participating. They need to take their ID's to the school's front office to be checked.

Volleyball

Fifteen players may be on the eligibility roster, but only twelve players can dress out and play.

The host school must provide water and cups for the visiting team. The host team must also provide a changing area with shower and water or Gatorade (and a snack if possible) for the referees.

The gate fee is \$2.00 for students and \$3.00 for adults.

Every school must provide its own volleyball referee stand with pads. Antennae must be installed on the net, to be even with the outside lines.

Soccer

Eighteen players may be on the eligibility roster, but only seventeen players can dress out and play.

Eleven players are on the field. Goals must comply with high school regulations, which require 24 by 8 feet. Each school must have different colors or designs for the team's socks as agreed upon during Athletic Director meetings.



Each soccer half will be 25 minutes, with a running clock. A required one minute water break will be called halfway through each half. A 10 minute water break is provided at half time. Schools are responsible for their own water.

Students must purchase their own shin guards, and guards must cover the shins. (Schools will buy extra of sets in case there are students who cannot afford them.) Students must wear shoes with cleats to prevent injury.

Coaches should solicit two volunteer ball runners for each side of the field so that when a ball goes out of bounds, a new game ball can be thrown into play quickly instead of players chasing an out-of-bounds ball.

Seeding for Play-offs

Home court advantage will go to the division winner for semi-finals. The home court for championship games will be determined based on higher seed. If the seed is tied, home court will be determined by a coin toss done by the Director of Secondary Schools or Designee.

Invitationals

Middle schools may host invitational tournaments or dual cross country meets beyond the interscholastic schedule. Such events may be held on Saturdays. Not only district middle schools, but also private schools (with proof of liability insurance and accident insurance for participating students) or schools from other districts may be invited to a tournament.

Concessions

With approval from the Principal, a school organization may provide concessions at games, either as a fundraiser, or as a means to help offset the cost of hosting the events. If the concessions are operated by a school group or club, the proceeds of the concession must be placed in Internal Accounts and the concessions will be considered a fundraiser.

Officials

Game officials are contracted out through Manasota Soccer Referees Association, Gulf Coast Volleyball Officials Association and Gulf Coast Basketball Officials Association.

Gate Proceeds

Admissions may be charged for middle school interscholastic competitions (**\$2.00 for students and \$3.00 for adults**). Middle school athletic events are not considered fundraisers, but they are also not athletic events as commonly defined for high schools. The revenues generated by these games will be deposited into the host school's internal accounts (account 5575, Interscholastic Athletics).

Gate proceeds may be used to offset the cost of hosting games, to pay the SRO, clock person, linesmen and score keeper. They may also be used to pay for coaches' CPR classes if the school cannot otherwise fund the course. Any remaining funds may be used to offset the costs of hosting games.

Tickets must be pre-numbered and a ticket reporting form completed. Each school should buy at least two rolls of tickets in different colors.

The school bookkeeper should provide a cash box for the ticket seller. If the bookkeeper wishes to establish a change fund, she should contact Ed Daugherty, Chief Internal Auditor.

The following form is to be used for reporting tickets issued and sold.

**School Board of Manatee County
Report of Tickets Issued and Sold**

School: _____

Date: _____

Event: _____

Teams: _____ VS _____

TICKETS ISSUED

Color/Kind	Ticket Numbers		Tickets	Price Each	Total Value
	Beginning	Ending			

Total Value of Tickets Issued _____

Change Fund Advanced _____

Above tickets and change received by: _____

Ticket Seller

TICKETS SOLD

Color/Kind	Ticket Numbers		Sold	Price Each	Total Amount Sold
	Next #	First Sold			

Total Value of Tickets Sold _____ (1)

Amount Collected _____ - _____ (2)

Difference _____ = _____ (3)

Change Fund _____ (4)

Total Cash Turned In _____ (2) + (4)

Unsold tickets and change received by: _____

School District of Manatee County
Parent Consent Form for Interscholastic Athletics

**PARENT/GUARDIAN RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT
FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION**

Student's Name (*Print full name.*): _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____ Grade Level: _____

Social Security Number _____ School: _____

Sport/Activity this agreement governs: _____

I/We fully understand that playing or practicing to play interscholastic sports may be hazardous and poses a risk of injury, including but not limited to **sprains, strains, contusions, abrasions, broken bones** and in extreme cases, **paralysis or death**. Due to the potential hazards associated with interscholastic sports, I/We recognize the importance of following the instructions of coaches and trainers, regarding playing techniques, training and other rules associated with this sport/activity.

This agreement is entered into voluntarily and is made with the understanding that the student named above **has not violated any of the eligibility requirements** of the Manatee School District. I/We understand that if an ineligible student plays in an interscholastic sports competition, the game will be forfeited to the other team.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Physical Examination form with date of physical and physician's signature. For interscholastic athletics, the Physical is valid for one calendar year.
- Student must have a minimum 2.0 grade point average on the previous quarter's report card.
- Student cannot have any 4's in Citizenship on the previous quarter's report card.
- Student cannot be older than 15 years and 9 months.

I/We hereby give my/our consent for my/our student/child/ward to engage in Manatee School District approved athletic activities as a representative of his/her school. I/We give my/our consent for him/her to accompany the team on county trips.

Parent/Guardian Home Address: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

In consideration of the School Board of Manatee County permitting my student/child/ward to engage in interscholastic sports, I/we agree to release and hold harmless the School Board of Manatee County and its employees and agents from and against all claims, judgments, cost, expenses, attorney fees, including but not limited to, claims occurring from the negligence of the School Board of Manatee County its employees and agents, arising out of bodily injuries or property damage resulting from participation in interscholastic sports.

I/We acknowledge that I/we have read this agreement and fully understand its meaning, and that I/we will abide by all terms and conditions associated with this sport/activity and in this agreement.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student's Signature

Print Name of Parent/Guardian

Date

Distritorio Escolar del Condado de Manatee, Florida
P.O. Box 9069, Bradenton, FL 34206

**LANZAMIENTO DE PADRE/GUARDIA Y ACUERDO INOFENSIVO DEL ASIMIENTO PARA LA
PARTICIPACIÓN ATLÉTICA DEL ESTUDIANTE DE LA ESCUELA SECUNDARIA**

Nombre del Estudiante: _____ Number de Segura Social: _____

Fecha de Nacimiento: _____ Lugar de Nacimiento: _____

Nombre de la Escuela: _____ Grado: _____

Deporte/actividad que este acuerdo gobierna: _____

Yo/Nosotros entendemos completamente que el jugar o el practicar para jugar deportes interescolares puede ser peligroso y plantea un riesgo de lesión, incluyendo pero no limitado a los esguinces, tensiones, contusiones, abrasiones, huesos rotos y en casos extremos, parálisis o muerte. Debido a los peligros potenciales de asociación a deportes interescolares, Yo/Nosotros reconocemos la importancia de seguir las instrucciones de los "coaches" y amaestradores, con respecto jugar a técnicas, al entrenamiento y a otro gobernado asociado con este deporte/actividad.

Este acuerdo se celebra voluntariamente y se hace con la comprensión que Yo/Nosotros no hemos violado ninguna regla de los de la elegibilidad del Distrito Escolar del Manatee. Yo/Nosotros damos por este medio el consentimiento de mi/nuestro hijo/a para que el estudiante/nuestro hijo/a participe en actividades atléticas aprobadas Distrito Escolar del Manatee como representante de su escuela. Yo/Nosotros damos el consentimiento de mi/nuestra parte para que él o ella acompañe el equipo en viajes del condado.

Dirección de los Padres/Guardian: _____

No. de teléfono: _____ No. de Celular: _____

Contacto en caso de una emergencia: _____ Tel: _____

En la consideración del tablero de escuela del condado del Manatee, permitiendo que mi estudiante/niño/a participe en deportes interescolares, Yo/Nosotros estamos de acuerdo a lanzar y llevar a cabo inofensivo al tablero de escuela de condado del Manatee y sus empleados y agentes y contra de todas las demandas, juicios, costos, honorarios del abogado, incluyendo pero no limitado a, demanda ocurriendo de la negligencia del tablero de escuela del condado de Manatee a sus empleados y agentes, presentándose fuera de lesiones corporales o de daños materiales resultando de la participación en deportes interescolares.

Yo/Nosotros reconocemos que Yo/Nosotros hemos leído este acuerdo y entendemos completamente su significado, Yo/Nosotros seguiremos todas las condiciones asociadas a este deporte/actividad y en este acuerdo.

Nombre del Estudiante

Firma del Padre/Guardia

Nombre del Padre/Guardia

**School District of Manatee County
Middle School Interscholastic Sports
Release of Liability for
Transportation Release**

I, _____ am the parent or legal guardian of:
Parent/Guardian

Child's Name

Child's Name

Child's Name

and hereby agree to transport the Student from his or her school sponsored sporting event on this date _____ and time _____.

mm/dd/yy

hr/min

Effective immediately hereby release, hold harmless, and indemnify the School Board of Manatee County from any and all responsibility for my child(ren) as well as for any and all liability for any injuries that may occur to my child(ren) during, or as a result of, my transportation of my child(ren).

The Student has been released to me on this _____ and time _____.
mm/dd/yy *hr/min*

Parent/Guardian's Signature

COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM TO THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR.

**Distrito Escolar del Condado de Manatee
Escuela Intermedia Deportes Inter-escolares
Liberar de Responsabilidad por la
Transportación**

Yo, _____ soy uno de los padres o guardián legal de:
Padres/Guardián

Nombre del Niño/a

Nombre del Niño/a

Nombre del Niño/a

y por este medio estoy de acuerdo en transportar al Estudiante desde el evento deportivo auspiciado por su escuela en esta fecha _____ y hora _____.

día/mes/año

hora/min

Efectivo inmediatamente por este medio libero, de cualquier y toda responsabilidad, y exonerio de daños o compensación a La Junta Escolar del Condado de Manatee por mi(s) niño(s) al igual que por cualquier y toda responsabilidad por cualquier heridas que puedan ocurrirle a mi(s) niño(s) durante, o como resultado de mi transportación de mi(s) niño(s).

El Estudiante ha sido recogido por mí él _____ y hora _____.
día/mes/año *hora/min*

Firma de los Padres/Guardián

COMPLETE Y DEVUELVA ESTE FORMULARIO AL DIRECTOR ATLÉTICO