

**JENSEN BEACH HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT**



**PARENT HANDBOOK
2020 - 2021**

INTRODUCTION

An athletic program in a school should be educationally sound and consistent with the overall academic philosophy. Athletics is an excellent means of bringing together home, school, and community. It is an integral part of the school and curriculum.

The purpose of this manual is to assist all parents in interpreting the policies of Jensen Beach High School's athletic program. Athletics help the player achieve a higher standard of mental, social, and physical fitness. Through athletic competition, the player relates the rules of the game to the rules of life. The athletic program contributes to school spirit and offers the best means of a close and wholesome relationship between the school and the community it represents.

At no time should the athletic program place the total educational curriculum secondary in emphasis; the athletic program should function as a part of the whole curriculum and should constantly strive for the development of a well-rounded individual, capable of taking his or her place in society.

Athletes at Jensen Beach High School have a right to participate in sports, have qualified coaches, and share in the leadership and decision-making of their sport. Student Athletes have the right to participate in a safe and healthy environment, and be properly prepared for competition. Student Athletes will be treated as individuals with dignity. The student athlete should have fun while participating, receive the highest quality education, and will be provided with guidance concerning their future academically and athletically.

ATHLETIC MISSION STATEMENT

The Jensen Beach High School athletic mission is to maximize the potential of each student-athlete by providing a rigorous athletic program, which complements and supports a challenging academic program that trains student-athletes to persevere, to work well with others, and to test themselves both on and off the field of play.

BELIEFS

- We believe students are our highest priority.
- We believe athletic participation is a privilege, not a “right”.
- We believe the dignity, worth, and respect of participants should be paramount in all athletic activities.
- We believe that great character, personal integrity, and the JBHS value system will produce excellence both academically and athletically.
- We believe the most important result of competition is the development of life-long values and skills.
- We believe high school athletics should be fun and rewarding.
- We believe athletic programs are most beneficial when they are competitive.
- We believe winning is an attitude resulting from loyal preparation, concentrated effort, and a deep commitment to excel.
- We believe well-designed athletic programs promote community and school pride.
- We believe morale, satisfaction, and performance are enhanced when athletes work together as a team.
- We believe it is important to participate/volunteer in worthy projects that will help bolster the unity between JBHS athletics and the community.
- We believe well-qualified coaches and administrators are important components in a successful athletic program.
- We believe positive parent support and involvement enhance student growth and program quality.
- We believe that acting as “ONE” will ultimately allow us the best possible chance to succeed as parents, coaches, administrators and student-athletes.

PARENT’S ROLE

- Attend as many games as possible.
- Do everything possible to make the athletic experience positive for your child and others.
- View the game with team goals in mind.
- Encourage multiple sports participation.
- Look upon opponents as friends involved in the same experience.
- Accept the judgment of the officials and coaches; remain in control.
- Accept the results of each game; do not make excuses.
- Demonstrate winning and losing with dignity.
- Encourage athletes to keep their perspective in both victory and defeat.
- Accept the goals, roles, and achievements of your child.

Only one guarantee exists during an athletic season: it will not be perfect. Parents should understand and accept the fact that there never will be such a thing as a “perfect season” and all parental assistance involves decisions with a very fine line of judgment. Even without disagreements between parents and coaches, problems will always occur with relationships, playing time and team success. Before these happen, it is essential that both players and parents have a mutual perspective on everyone’s expectations concerning the “athletic experience”. Every parent should remember that they do not have the right to interact with a game official. When a parent criticizes a referee, he is teaching his children that it is okay to challenge authority. People behaving poorly cannot hide. A ticket to a high school game is not a license to verbally abuse others or be obnoxious.

STUDENT-ATHLETE RESPONSIBILITIES

Being a member of a Jensen Beach High School athletic team is the fulfillment of an ambition for many students. The attainment of this goal carries with it certain traditions and responsibilities that must be maintained. A great athletic tradition is not built overnight. It takes hard work from many people over many years. As a member of an interscholastic team at JBHS, student-athletes inherit a wonderful tradition – a tradition that they are challenged to uphold.

Our tradition has been to win with respect. We desire to win, but only with a true respect for the game, the athletes that compete, our core values, our school, and our community. Over the past seven years our teams have achieved more than their share of District and State series championships. Many individuals have set records and won All-State, All-Conference, and even All-American honors.

It is not easy to contribute to such a great athletic tradition. In order to be the best an athlete can be he or she may have to endure certain sacrifices, and assume the responsibilities that go with them. The contributions a student-athlete makes shall serve as a satisfactory accomplishment personally and to one's family. The most important of the responsibilities is to broaden one's self and to develop strength of character. You owe it to yourself to get the greatest possible good from your high school experience. Your studies and your participation in other extra-curricular activities, as well as sports, prepare you for your life as an adult.

As an athletic team member you also bear a heavy responsibility to your family and community. If you never give your parents anything to be ashamed of, you have measured up to the ideal. When you know in your heart that you have practiced to the best of your ability every day, and that you have played the game all out, you can keep your self-respect and your family can be justly proud of you. The younger students in the elementary and middle schools are watching you. They will copy you in many ways – do not do anything to let them down. Set good examples for all that may see your actions. You never know who may be watching.

In the academic area, a good athlete becomes a good student. If you are lazy in class, you will be lazy on the practice field and will never reach your full potential. As a student-athlete you must plan your schedule so that you give sufficient time and energy to your studies to ensure acceptable grades. In addition to maintaining good academics, all student athletes should give respectful attention to classroom activities and show respect to other students and faculty at all times. Horseplay is not an approved habit of behavior.

PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIP

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to the student-athlete. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach and/or athletic department.

Communication you should expect from your child's coach and/or Athletic Dept.

- Philosophy of the coach and/or athletic department
- Expectations the coach has for the student-athletes on the team
- Locations and times of all practices and contests
- Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning
- Procedure should your child be injured during participation
- Discipline that may result in the denial of your child's participation

Communication coaches expect from student-athlete and/or parents

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Notification of any schedule conflict well in advance
- Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations
- Medical or physical limitations of the student-athlete

As your children become involved in the athletic programs they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wish. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches

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

It is very difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues “not” appropriate to discuss with coaches

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other student-athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern. We highly recommend that the above-mentioned items be left for discussion between the student-athlete and coach.

Procedure to follow if you have a concern to discuss with a coach

- Call to set up an appointment
- If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director. He will set up the meeting for you.

Please **do not** attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolutions. Please **do not** bash the coach and then expect them to be able to reach out to your child...all respect has been lost.

What to do if the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution

- Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation.
- At this meeting the appropriate next step will be determined.

Every effort should be made to resolve the problem at the high school before addressing your concerns with any District personnel. Since research indicates a student involved in extra-curricular activities has a greater chance for success in adulthood, these programs have been established. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote success after high school. We hope the information provided makes both your child's and your experience with Jensen Beach High School less stressful and much more enjoyable.

VOLUNTEERS

All volunteers must complete a School Volunteer Registration Form #270 and submit it to the school designee before they may volunteer in any capacity at a school-sponsored activity. This includes chaperoning, concession stand worker, transporting students, or any volunteer activity dealing with students. The form must be signed and returned to the Volunteer Coordinator or head coach one month prior to volunteering.

School District policy: Volunteers of the Martin County School District must submit Form #270 and receive approval prior to being allowed to volunteer in any classroom, game, event, or activity. Every volunteer application is screened against FDLE sexual predator's website by the school volunteer coordinator and signed off by the Principal to grant clearance.

TRANSPORTING STUDENTS

Coaches and sponsors are ultimately responsible for the behavior of their club/team regardless of how they are transported. Any designated driver responsible for transporting students will abide by the following policy prior to transporting students.

Parents will need to complete and submit the following 3 weeks prior to the event.

- Form #270 – Volunteer Registration Form
- Form #222 – Transportation of students in private vehicles
- Copy of drivers license and Insurance company declaration page with proof of liability

STUDENTS TRANSPORTING STUDENTS

Students may transport themselves to in-county student activities (with prior approval from coach/sponsor). The student's permission Form #32 must indicate that the student will be providing their own transportation. Students MAY NOT transport other students to activities. Students may not drive themselves to activities outside of Martin County.

SPORTSMANSHIP

(Florida High School Athletic Association Operational Bylaw - Article 7)

Sportsmanship Requirement

Players, coaches, administrators, spectators, contest officials and all other persons connected directly or indirectly with a member school shall practice and promote the highest standards of sportsmanship and ethics before, during, and after any interscholastic event.

Principal's Duty

It shall be the responsibility of each member school principal to exercise control over all individuals to the extent necessary to ensure safety and fair play for all participants and adherence with these standards.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct Defined

A student who commits an act of malicious and hateful nature toward a contest official, an opponent, or any other person attending an athletic contest shall be guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct. Such acts may include, but are not limited to profanity, striking or threatening a contest official; physical contact with an opponent which is beyond the normal scope of competition; spitting on a contest official or opponent; directing gender, racial, or ethnic slurs toward a contest official, an opponent or any other person attending and athletic contest; or other such acts deemed to be unacceptable conduct according to the principal of the member school the student attends or this Association.

Great "Sportsmanship" should be evident under all circumstances.

"Integrity" is paramount within all decisions made.

"Respect" of authority, time, commitments made, and the game are vital.

"Character" must be seen ...not heard.

"ONE"...mission, belief system, set of standards, community, and team.