

APPROVED  
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FRANKLIN COUNTY  
SCHOOL BOARD

FRANKLIN COUNTY



SEAHAWKS

ATHLETIC  
HANDBOOK

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**ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT MISSION**

Franklin County Athletic Department seeks to provide a broad opportunity of interscholastic athletic activities for both male and female student’s grades 6-12, which support our School Philosophy, which states we develop the total child, intellectually, physically, spiritually, socially, aesthetically, and emotionally. The Franklin County School District affirms the right of every student to participate in the interscholastic athletic program without regard to gender, race, or creed. We support the regulations and spirit of Title IX legislation and do not limit one sex in the enjoyment of any right, privilege, advantage or opportunity.

**ATHLETIC PROGRAM/PHILOSOPHY**

Franklin County Athletics takes pride in its teams and programs, which encourage student participation, support, and total physical effort on the fields of play. **All interscholastic competition begins in Grade Six according to the FHSAA.**

While we encourage winning in our Athletic Programs, the school does not place it as the cornerstone of its sports programs. Students who choose to participate in our athletic program will then become a student-athlete and will be expected to conform to basic standards of conduct while demonstrating a degree of self-discipline and self-sacrifice for the welfare of their team. Athletes will also be expected to demonstrate respect for the dignity and rights of others, good sportsmanship, and respect for authority.

It is the intent of Franklin County Athletics to provide the opportunity for our 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students to participate in as many interscholastic athletic activities as possible. While some of our sports require a limitation of numbers, others are open to all. We encourage our students to be aware of opportunities to participate and take advantage of them. Students are also encouraged to attend as many athletic events as possible and should display good school spirit. Both players and fans should exhibit appropriate behavior and show respect to the officials, opponents and their fans. Younger students should not be “dropped off” at games and left unsupervised; consequently, elementary students may not attend athletic events without an adult.

The Franklin County School Athletic Department and Administration will continue to explore broader opportunities for our students to participate in interscholastic athletics in the years to come and will keep you informed of changes in the program.

**ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT GOALS**

The primary goals of the Franklin County School Athletic Program are to accentuate the development of the whole student and to achieve a personal level of excellence in the areas of fitness, team commitment, and character.

When a student chooses to become a member of a team, the choices he or she makes will have an impact on not only his or her own goals, but on the goals of the team. With this being said parents need to understand when they make decisions on behalf of their child, it affects the team as well. Athletics is one of the most significant tools in the educational process of character development and helps to encourage students to lead by example.

### **FACILITIES**

The Franklin County Athletic Facilities include a Football Field, Gymnasium, Multipurpose Gymnasium, Weight Room, Field House, Locker rooms, Track, Soccer Field, Baseball Field, Softball Field, and a Multipurpose Intramural Field. Use of these facilities by teams other than Franklin County School for athletic practices or games is prohibited without written authorization from the Superintendent, Principal, or Athletic Director.

### **ATHLETIC OFFICE**

The Athletic Director can be reached by calling 850-670-2800 ext. 1924.

### **ATHLETIC COMMITTEE**

The Franklin County Athletic Committee is made up of the Athletic Director, the Principal, and Deans. The committee is responsible for reviewing and/or advising the school on matters pertaining to athletics. This includes any grievances brought by parents of athletes or athletes who have failed to come to a satisfactory solution of serious incident that would include suspension or expulsion from an athletic team.

### **FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

Franklin County Athletic Programs are governed by the FHSAA. Their web site is [www.fhsaa.org](http://www.fhsaa.org).

The Florida High School Athletic Association was founded on April 9, 1920 by a group of 29 high school principals who met at Peabody Hall on the University of Florida campus in Gainesville. The Florida Legislature, in 1997, gave the FHSAA statutory recognition as the official governing body for interscholastic athletics in Florida. The FHSAA has shown a steady growth in membership throughout its history. Currently, the FHSAA has a total of almost 800 member schools.

The aim of the FHSAA is to promote, direct, supervise and regulate interscholastic athletic programs in which high school students, whose schools are members, compete. To accomplish this aim, the Association:

1. Establishes and enforces regulations to ensure that all such athletic programs are part of, and contribute towards, the entire educational program;
2. Cooperates closely with the Florida Department of Education in the development of athletic programs;
3. Promotes the spirit of sportsmanship and fair play in all athletic contests; and

4. Enacts policies and guidelines that safeguard the physical, mental and moral welfare of high school students, and protect them from exploitation.

The citizens of Florida have long recognized and endorsed the role of the FHSAA – a non-profit, voluntary organization – in providing supervision, control and promotion of the interscholastic athletic programs in which students engage.

Please contact the Athletic Director regarding any information about the FHSAA.

## **STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPECTATIONS**

### ***PHYSICALS***

All athletes must have a current Physical Exam, Parent Consent Form, and EL3CH Concussion form on file with the Athletic Director. Franklin County Schools and the FHSAA each require a new physical each school year. A physical will last 365 days before a new one is required. Physicals are offered free at school during set times by the Athletic Director. Players cannot practice or participate in any practice, pre-season conditioning, or games without an updated physical.

### ***TEAM TRY-OUTS***

Tryouts in middle and high school are necessary and offer a great life lesson. The number of players on a team varies from sport to sport and in some cases are determined by the Florida High School Athletic Association. Some sports offered at Franklin will not have cuts. Reasons for tryouts may include: uniform limitations, transportation requirements, and unusually large group of interested players. Tryouts are during the first week of official practice.

### ***PARTICIPATION***

Athletic Participation is a privilege, not a right. To earn this privilege, students must abide by the rules and meet standards of academic performance and personal behavior that are related to school purposes.

### ***TEAM GOALS***

While each program has goals specific to the nature of the sport, all Franklin County School sports programs share the following goals:

1. **Work to improve and have fun** – Improving through practice and game experience is vital to success in the sport and in life. Fun is a function of commitment. An athlete is having fun when he or she is improving as an individual and as a member of a team.
2. **Learn Life Lessons by Honoring the Game** – see sportsmanship.
3. **Work to Win Championships** – All Franklin County athletes at all levels should be preparing and improving for a chance and opportunity to compete for championships.

### ***PRACTICE AND GAME COMMITMENT***

Players are expected to attend all practices, games and fundraisers on time and through completion. Players are expected to take pride in their scheduled program by helping set up, break down, and clean up the facilities. Franklin County School's athletic programs require a five or six day a week commitment, depending on the sport and level of competition. SUNDAY competition, meetings, and practices are prohibited by the FHSAA.

### ***INJURY***

Athletics do involve the potential for injury in any type of sport. Parents and students must acknowledge that, even with good coaching and use of proper equipment, injuries are still a possibility, and, on rare occasions, could result in total disability, paralysis or even death. Participants have the responsibility to help reduce the chance of injury by obeying all safety rules, REPORT ALL PHYSICAL PROBLEMS TO THEIR COACHES, follow a proper conditioning program, and inspect their equipment daily. In an effort to make all students and parents aware of the potential dangers in athletics, we require all athletes and their parents to read completely and sign an Athletic Participation Waiver along with all insurance information. If a player is injured during season and is expected to be cleared and return within that season, then that player is expected to attend practices to continue receiving instruction unless other arrangements have been made with the coach. Injured players are required to travel and participate in team functions if able depending on the severity of the injury. The same rules apply as if you were on the team. YOU ARE STILL A MEMBER OF THE TEAM EVEN IF YOU ARE INJURED.

### ***DRESS***

When leaving campus, all athletes must abide by the School Dress Code and/or Team Dress code (depending on what the coach approves through the AD for away games/events). It is important that each team member dress appropriately when representing Franklin County Schools.

### ***CONSEQUENCES FOR NOT FINISHING A SPORT***

Athletes who do not finish the athletic season (quits, asked to leave by coach, parent pulls athlete from team, academically ineligible to finish out the season, etc.), then that athlete may not begin the next sport within a school year until the sport he or she has left has completed play. This includes any and all playoff games. This rule also applies to all levels of play – middle school, junior varsity and varsity. The athlete may not condition, practice or play with the next sport. If the athlete has begun practicing with a team but then left the team prior to dressing out for the first game, the athlete is free to begin the next sport with no restrictions. ONCE THE ATHLETE REMAINS ON THE TEAM BEGINNING WITH THE FIRST GAME, AND WHETHER OR NOT HE OR SHE ACTUALLY PLAYED IN THE GAME, THE ATHLETE CANNOT BEGIN THE NEXT SPORT UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF THE PRESENT ONE. A sport season begins at the first preseason meeting and ends when all equipment/uniforms are turned in.

### ***SCHOOL ATTENDANCE/MISSED ACADEMIC WORK***

Athletes will not be excused from morning classes the day after an away game – regardless of the arrival time back in town. Parents are encouraged not to allow their children to miss valuable school time as well. NO ATHLETE IS EXCUSED FROM CLASSES FOLLOWING AN ATHLETIC EVENT.

To be eligible to participate in an extracurricular practice or game, a student must be in attendance at school from 7:55-2:10. Partial absences due to medical or dental appointments are exempt from this rule, with proper documentation. A student must be in three of their classes to be able to participate in a game on game day.

Students who miss academic classes because of athletic participation are responsible for missed work. Except where prearranged, homework, tests, papers, etc. will be made up in the normal time frame required of other excused absences. STUDENTS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT IT IS THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE UP ALL MISSED WORK IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETICS.

### ***UNIFORM/EQUIPMENT***

Players must pay for items that were issued to them that they lost and/or damaged. If a player fails to pay for lost or damaged items, they will not be allowed to participate in any sport, be promoted or receive their diploma until the issue is resolved.

## **FHSAA FINES**

Any player actions that result in the school receiving a fine from FHSAA will be required to pay said fee. Player will not be allowed to participate in any extracurricular activity until the fine is paid in full.

## **PARENT EXPECTATIONS/COMMUNICATION**

Parents can expect that each sport will hold a preseason meeting and that each coach will have a practice and game schedule. Parents can expect that each coach will provide a copy of specific team rules. Parents can expect a post season award banquet. Parents can also expect that there will be some kind of fundraiser or help needed for the season. Parents do not communicate with the coach before, during or after a practice/game. For athletics to be a successful program here at Franklin County, we need the parents support. Communication will have to be one of the main focal points in order to achieve full success. We do not need any altercations/bad examples in front of the student-athletes, so these are the correct steps to get in contact with a coach below. Also see sportsmanship in this handbook.

- **Steps to Communicate with Coach**
  1. *Call Coach and Set up a Meeting  
(Not before, during or after a practice/game)*
  2. *If Situation not Resolved – contact the Athletic Director to set up an appointment to meet with said coach.*

## **ACADEMICS AND ELIGIBILITY**

All Student-Athletes, Middle School and High School, are required by the FHSAA to maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of a 2.0 each semester to be eligible. Since FCS wants to stress the importance of academics to its students and the FHSAA will be changing the minimum GPA to a 2.3 in 2016, our minimum G.P.A is a 2.2 to be eligible. This will help our athletes climb to reach the standards for the 2016 school year and will also furthermore help the prospective student athlete get the score to get into college.

- Middle School/Junior High:

The Middle School Student-Athlete (grades 6-8) must be a maximum of 15 years or if he/she reaches the age of 15 on or after September 1<sup>st</sup>, then he/she may participate in interscholastic athletics that school year. The Junior High Student-Athlete (grades 7-9) must be a maximum of 16 years old or if he/she reaches the age of 16 on or after September 1<sup>st</sup>, then he/she may participate in interscholastic athletics that school year. The Middle/Junior High Student must maintain a 2.2 GPA. To be eligible the first 9-week period, the student must have been promoted from their previous grade. The student may only participate one year at each grade level. In order to practice or participate in extracurricular events, a student must be in attendance a minimum of three periods the day of the event.

- High School:

The High School Student-Athlete must be a maximum of 19 years old only if the student reaches the age of 19 on or after September 1<sup>st</sup>, and who has not exceeded his/her four-year limit of eligibility, then he/she may participate in interscholastic athletics during that school year. The High School Student must have a 2.2 cumulative GPA. The students may have a maximum of 4 consecutive years of opportunity for athletic eligibility from the date of entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. In order to practice or participate in extracurricular events, a student must be in attendance a minimum of three periods the day of the event.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

Both athletes and spectators should keep in mind that the highly excitable atmosphere of an athletic event can never justify rudeness or excessive complaints about officiating or the outcome of an event. It is the duty of a coach to speak, in a sanctioned manner, with officials about unclear or questionable calls. Players are not to become embroiled in disagreements with officials, opponents, or fans. Spectators are reminded that the excessive badgering of an official is a self-defeating activity and should be discouraged. It is also unbecoming for teams to blame the lack of success on the performance of an official.

Profanity, obscenity, and other unsportsmanlike behavior do not belong at Franklin County School events. Well-mannered teams, coaches, and fans need not be associated with a lack of competitive spirit or enthusiasm. Honest, hard play coupled with strong support from the spectators is the mark of Franklin County Schools. Poor sportsmanship, on the other hand, discredits and embarrasses the school and may lead to a player being removed from the game or team and to a spectator being removed from the playing area or even banned depending on the situation. It is also essential that spectators exhibit good sportsmanship as well as adhere to the following guidelines during competition:

1. Always cheer in a positive manner. Positive cheering leads to positive results.
2. Do not talk to officials before, during, or after the competition.
3. Keep all comments about officiating to a minimum. We want athletes to concentrate on what they can control and what is about to happen, not what has already happened.
4. PLEASE TRY TO LEAVE CONCERN FOR OFFICIATING TO THE COACHING STAFF
5. Never communicate with our athletes from the start of warm-up until the end of competition, other than to cheer their efforts. We want our athletes to remain focused.
6. Fans should be seated in bleachers or remain in designated areas away from the team and playing areas.

One important thing that each team here at Franklin County Schools will be working on all season is Honoring the Game by respecting **ROOTS**. Each letter in ROOTS stands for an important part of our sport that we must respect.

- **R stands for Rules.** Rules keep the game fair. Players/Coaches need to play by the rules, even if we think we will not get caught if we break them.
- **O is for Opponents.** Without opponents, we could have no game. A good opponent pushes us to do our best, so we should be grateful for our opponents. We will promise to show respect for opposing coaches and teams, and expect parents to do the same.
- **O is for Officials.** Respecting Officials can be the most difficult part of "Honoring the Game". Officials have a very hard job, keeping the game safe and fair for both teams. Officials are not

perfect (just like coaches, athletes and parents!) and sometimes they will make calls that are not in our favor, but we will show respect for officials regardless.

- **T is for teammates.** A big part of playing sports is being part of a team. Later in life these student-athletes will often be part of a team, and it is important to learn to work together. When you are on a team, your words and actions – before, during and after practices and games – reflect not only on you, but also on your teammates and coaches. So strive to treat teammates as you would want to be treated. Also strive to support each teammate on and off the field.
- **S is for Self.** Some people only Honor the Game when their opponents do, but we should Honor the Game no matter what the other team or its fans do. We set our own internal standards, and we live up to them no matter what (Character).

### **ATHLETIC TEAMS RULES**

Late to Practice Or Detention	Excused Practice	Unexcused Missed Practice	ISS	OSS	Penalty	Team Sports	Individual Sport
1 Day					1 Day Conditioning		
2 Days	1 Day				1 Day Conditioning	Subject to not start	
3 Days	2 Days	1 Day			2 Days Conditioning	Do not start and sit ¼ of game	
4 Days	3 Days	2 Days	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense		3 Days Conditioning Parent Phone Call, Subject for Suspension	Do not start and sit ½ of game	Not Play in 1 Event
5 Days	4 Days	3 Days	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense	5 Days Conditioning Meeting with Parents, Coach, AD Subject for Suspension	Do not play for a week	Not Play in 2 Events
6 Days	5 Days	4 Days	3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense	Removed from Team	Off Team	Off Team

**\*\*Middle School, Junior Varsity, and Varsity will follow these rules for ALL SPORTS\*\***

#### ***Excused absences***

Must be preapproved by parent/guardian with Coach/AD. **Written Documentation is required.** Attendance for sports are very vital in instilling great character and leadership, while also teaching student-athletes the importance of being a team player. Missing team practice and/or games not only hurts the individual who missed, but damages the team as well. Parents should also keep this in mind when scheduling any appointments or disciplining their child.

#### **Excused absences may be given for the following reasons:**

- Illness of student – headaches, minor problems (Parent Documentation required)
- Appointments for minor medical or dental care (Doctor Written Statement Required)
- Pre-approved Family vacation (Parent Written Statement Required)
- Pre-approved Work Hours (Boss Written Statement Required)

### **Excused Absence or Late with no Disciplinary Action:**

Excused/Late to Practice Athletic Team Rules are subject for change only if Injury, Death in Family, Major or Family Medical Emergency, Legal Reasons, Religious Reasons, Tutoring (not make-up work/test) or School Sanctioned Events/School Educational Trips occur.

### **DEVELOPMENT OF ATHLETES**

In order for athletes to improve, a competent and interested coaching staff in the areas of strength and conditioning, agility, skill, and mental preparation must guide them. This preparation begins at the Middle School level and continues into the high school years. In order to be a consistently competitive athletic program, sub-varsity athletes should receive training that is well structured, disciplined, and fun. The disciplined athlete should improve in a sport if the following beliefs are observed:

1. The middle school and sub-varsity programs emphasize growth and an improvement of basic fundamentals.
2. Full commitments, positive attitudes, good sportsmanship and a team before self mentality.
3. Coaches, Athletes, and Parents are willing to communicate and work together to form a positive athletic/team experience that will help the individual as well as the team grow.
4. Middle school athletes are eligible for high school athletics and if a parent and coach agree, a middle school athlete may move up and play for a junior varsity or varsity team. However, once a parent agrees to allow their middle school athlete to play at the high school level, the coach will determine which team(s) the athlete will participate on for the remainder of the season.

It should be noted that all Franklin County Athletic teams are playing to win championships. However, developmental team coaches have an obligation to teach and prepare their athletes and teams for life long lessons. This means we will not have a winning at all cost approach to coaching. Our coaches will Honor the Game and use our sportsmanship ROOTS approach when coaching. It is the intent of the athletic program to provide each program (Middle/JV/Varsity) a process which best prepares all of our athletes for the next level of competition.

### ***Multi-Sport Athlete***

All Franklin County School Athletes, Coaches, and Parents should understand the importance of the multiple-sport athlete to our program and support, encourage, and allow students to participate in one, two, or three seasons as they choose. According to recent statistics, about 2% of high school athletes are awarded athletic scholarships to compete in college. This small number means high school student-athletes and their parents need to have realistic expectations about receiving an athletic scholarship to play sports in college. Academic, not athletic, achievement is the most reliable path to success in life. With this information parents and coaches should not pressure a student-athlete to play or not play a sport. It should also be understood that students who are finishing one athletic season while tryouts and practices are in progress in another season will be given special consideration

and an opportunity for a delayed tryout. However, it is the duty of the athlete to discuss this with their coaches well in advance. Injury, illness, and other special situations will be taken into consideration as well, but must be authorized by the Varsity Head Coach and the Athletic Director. AT NO TIME SHOULD A FRANKLIN COUNTY SCHOOL COACH ENCOURAGE A FRANKLIN COUNTY SCHOOL ATHLETE TO SPECIALIZE IN ONE OR MORE SPECIFIC PROGRAMS AND SHOULD DO HIS OR HER BEST TO SUPPORT THE MULTI-SPORT CONCEPT.

### ***Off-Season Strength and Conditioning***

Every Athlete, Coach, and Parent should understand that strength and conditioning work as a primary tool for achieving success in all athletic programs. All athletes are encouraged to participate in a workout program both in and out of the season of their sport. Coaches will work together for the multi-sport athlete so he or she can get development in the off-season for multiple sports.

Athletes in the weight room will abide by the following rules when using the facility:

#### **WEIGHTROOM RULES**

- 1. Students may not be in the weight room without authorized supervision.*
- 2. Do not enter the weight room unless you are going to work out.*
- 3. PROPER attire must be worn at all times. This includes shirts, athletic shorts or warm-ups, indoor athletic shoes, and socks. Those not dressed properly will be asked to leave immediately and could be subject for additional discipline.*
- 4. No food or drinks are allowed.*
- 5. You must have a spotter(s) when doing any type of bench or leg lifting activity.*
- 6. Return all weights to their proper racks.*
- 7. The weight room should be neat and clean at all times.*
- 8. ALWAYS USE CORRECT TECHNIQUES. If you are not familiar with the basic techniques to lifting then do not perform the activity or lift and see a coach for proper form training.*
- 9. Report all injuries to the coach on duty immediately.*
- 10. NO horseplay in the weight room. You will be asked to leave immediately and could be subject for additional discipline.*

### **LETTERS/LETTER JACKETS/AWARDS**

#### ***Letters***

Athletes may be eligible to receive a varsity letter if they meet the criteria. The athlete must have played on the varsity team and participated in a full season. An athlete will receive one letter during their athletic career. This will come from the first varsity sport in which he or she letters. After that, the athlete will receive a sports pin for the first year of lettering in a sport. After that the athlete will receive a service bar for each year of lettering, thereafter. The School Letterman's Jacket will only be sold to student/athletes that have been awarded a Varsity Letter and pin. This means you must play on a Varsity sport for at least two complete seasons. For the multi-athlete, whichever sport that the two years come first will decide when the letterman jacket will be available to purchase. Other

individuals may purchase other types of jackets that would be distinctly different than the Letterman jackets.

### ***Awards***

To receive an award at the annual banquet, an athlete must finish out the entire season through the last game "in good standing". If a player quits a team, is asked to leave a team by a coach, or is academically ineligible to finish out the season, then that player is not "in good standing". If a player sustains a season ending injury or becomes eligible before the season ends and has participated in practices and supported the team with attendance at games and practices while injured, then that athlete is also considered to be "in good standing" and is eligible for recognition and awards. Middle/Junior High athletes are not eligible for trophies but are rewarded with a certificate. It is the coach's responsibility to establish criteria for the awarding of participation credit at the varsity/junior high/middle school levels.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

The Transportation Department is responsible for supplying the needed transportation to and from events. A transportation request is turned in to the Athletic Director and he/she will make the request to the Transportation Department. Every effort will be made to have the transportation at the requested location, time for departure, and arrival back to Franklin County School. Students are required to secure their own transportation home upon arrival at the Franklin County School Gym.

Buses are not supposed to deliver any coaches, students, or any others to any other location without prior written approval from the transportation department. If the return direction carries the buses through Carrabelle or Apalachicola the buses may stop and drop the students at the IGA in Carrabelle or Charter School in Apalachicola. The bus drivers take their direction from the Transportation Coordinator.

Only required game personnel and players are to ride the bus unless the athletic committee has approved a non-member or volunteer to ride on the bus. School Board policy 6.141 identifies the steps for athletes to be transported by personal vehicles. Athletes will be allowed to travel home with their parents only after they have first secured written permission from the Athletic Director, Dean, or Principal.

Activity after school practice buses runs 4 days a week. The times the buses will be running depends on practice schedules and after school programs. The average departure times will be 5:00-6:00. Activity buses will not run sometimes if the number of students are at a minimum for that practice day. Schedules for the activity bus are done weekly through the Athletic Director. Students are required to secure their own transportation home from practice on Friday's and on days that the activity buses are not running and/or required.

### **HALL OF FAME**

To qualify, a student must meet a minimum of three or more criteria in each of the following categories and must be recommended by his/her Coach and Athletics Committee during his/her years at Franklin County School:

1. Scholarship – minimum 2.50 cumulative GPA
2. Leadership – Captain of Team, Class Officer, Club or Group Leader, Leadership Awards or recommendation by Coach or Athletic Director.
3. Service – Participation in school-sponsored activities, clubs, community service or events.
4. Character – honors the game, abides by team rules, school rules and policies.  
\*A suspension may be grounds for disqualification
5. Varsity Letter and has substantial statistical career stats. (Individual records, Team Champion records, etc.)

### **FUNDRAISING**

Coaches need to make sure and approve any type of fundraiser with the Athletic Committee by filling out an activity request form and going through the proper channels. These fundraising events need to be approved through the athletic director and the principal.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

The purpose of this policy is to establish a clear and concise set of guidelines for student-athletes to follow to help them make the best possible judgments and safeguard their personal privacy as well as protect the integrity of Seahawk Athletics and Franklin County School. Remember, playing and competing for Franklin County School is a privilege. The student-athletes, coaches, and staff represent Franklin County School both on and off the field and are seen as role models on campus and in the community. As leaders, we all have the responsibility to represent our teams, our schools and ourselves in a responsible and positive manner.

Third parties including media, faculty, future employers and college recruiters can easily access social media profiles and view all personal information. This includes pictures, videos, comments posts and links. It is important to understand that once something is posted online, it never disappears. Inappropriate material found by third parties affects the perception of FCS student-athletes, the Seahawk family, and the School as a whole. It can also be detrimental to the future of our Seahawk family and the student-athlete's future employment options.

#### **With those ideas in mind, the policy requires that student-athletes:**

- **Protect and enhance** the value of the Seahawk Athletics; avoid making derogatory comments about athletics, students, faculty or employees and protect confidential information.
- **Be aware** that readers and followers on social media sites include media, current and future student-athletes, students, faculty, administrators, alumni, parents, coaches and community members as well as current/past/future employers. It is essential that student-athletes portray Franklin County School in a positive manner at all times.
- **Think before** they post and anticipate how all the third parties that will see that post may react to it.

**Examples of inappropriate posts:**

- a. Posting photos, videos, comments, posts or tweets showing the personal use of alcohol and/or tobacco products. (no holding cups, cans, shot glasses, guns, weapons, etc.)
- b. Posting photos, videos, and comments that are sexual in nature. This includes links to Web sites of a pornographic nature and other inappropriate material.
- c. Posting pictures, videos, comments, posts and tweets that relate to drugs or drug paraphernalia.
- d. ANY inappropriate or offensive language in comments, videos and other postings. This includes threats of violence and derogatory comments against race, gender, team affiliates or any other organizations.
- e. Posting negative commentary regarding the performance of Franklin County Seahawk athletic teams or relating to the actions of an individual student-athlete, as well as any negative postings about team information (long bus rides, early morning practices etc.)

**For your own protection:**

- 1. Set your security and privacy settings so only friends can view profiles, posts and other information.
- 2. Do not post your email, home address, local address, telephone number(s) or other personal information that could lead to unwanted attention, stalking, identity theft etc.
- 3. Be aware of who you add as a friend on social media services. Many people are looking to take advantage of student-athletes (e.g.: <http://www.athletesbehavingbadly.com>)

## **Franklin County School Athletic Handbook**

We have read, fully understand, and can comply with the policies and procedures laid out in the Franklin County School’s Athletic Handbook.

Student Athlete Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Student Athlete \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Sport(s) Student Athlete is playing \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian of Student Athlete (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian of Student Athlete \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this signed form to either the coach of the sport or the Athletic Director before the first practice of the season.