

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

2023 - 2024



MILLER FINE ARTS MAGNET
MIDDLE SCHOOL

INDEX

Philosophy of Athletics	2
Purpose of Athletics	2
Student Athlete Defined.....	3
Eligibility Standards for Participation in Athletics	3
MIDDLE SCHOOL GUIDELINES FOR ELIGIBILITY.....	4
Participation Standards and Good Sportsmanship for Student Athletes	5
Participation Standards for Student Athletes	5
Standards of Good Sportsmanship	5
Code of Conduct for Student Athletes.....	6
Code of Conduct for Parents/Fans.....	6
General Information for Student Athletes	8
Awards Information Student Athletes	9
Acknowledgement of the Risk of Injury Found in Middle School Sports	10
Summary.....	10
Acknowledgement of Code of Conduct.....	11

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

The athletic handbook is designed to inform athletes and their parents or guardians of the rules, regulations, and information that helped develop the tradition of competition at Miller Fine Arts Magnet Middle School. Participating in middle school athletics is a privilege that carries with it honor, responsibility, and sacrifice. Since competition is a privilege and not a right, those who choose to participate will be expected to follow the Code of Conduct established by the administration along with additional specific coaches' rules for their sport. You are expected to represent Miller Middle School, your family, and community in a positive manner. The policies in the handbook apply to all GHSA sanctioned sports and Bibb County activities.

PHILOSOPHY OF MILLER MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS

The philosophy of the Miller Fine Arts Magnet School Athletic Department is to provide the best opportunities for its student-athletes to excel in teamwork, sportsmanship, self-discipline and moral character.

PURPOSE OF MILLER MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS

The primary purpose of athletics is to help young adults grow into respectable citizens. By following the guidelines set forth in this handbook, the ideals you exemplify in athletics will become a part of your personality and character and will be a model to those who watch you perform. You assume many responsibilities when you wear the colors of Miller Middle School. Most athletes are responsible people and succeed because of this characteristic. Those who fail to meet their responsibilities, as an individual and team member, may be a detriment to themselves, the team, and the school. Interscholastic athletics, historically a significant part of the total education program, contributes effectively to the lives of the participants by providing competitive opportunities, fostering initiative to succeed, providing leadership experience, and numerous opportunities for self-discipline. You have inherited a great athletic tradition built by many coaches and athletes over a period of years.

One of your challenges is to contribute to that tradition with your best efforts and enjoy a very satisfying experience. The "success" Tradition of the Miller Middle School Athletic Program involves responsibilities for all prospective and participating athletes. Those entering the program should have an idea of these responsibilities and have the willingness to accept and maintain them.

Taking advantage of the opportunities presented by the Miller Middle School Athletic Program can contribute to the successes that will be yours as you participate in the future.

MUSTANG WAY FOR STUDENT ATHLETES DEFINED

A student athlete is defined as all young women and men who represent a team that engages in interscholastic competition, student managers, statisticians and all other students who may assist a team. Athletes are expected to participate in whole school sponsored events such as student/parent conference, and parent night.

ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS FOR PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETICS AT MILLER FINE ARTS MAGNET MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Bibb County School District and Miller Middle School both have minimum requirements for participation in middle school athletics, conditioning programs and camps. Failure to meet these requirements will render that student athlete ineligible for participation. The following are basic requirements for athletic participation at Miller Middle School that must be met before participation can begin.

- Students new to Miller Middle School who have transferred in from another middle school must first be enrolled in Miller and must have all completed Transfer Forms before they can begin practice with a team.
- Students new to Miller Middle School who have transferred in from another middle school are ineligible until all forms from the previous school have been completed and ruled upon by the Athletic Department. The new student, through the athletic office at Miller Middle School, must initiate this transfer. The athlete will not be allowed to participate with a team until the transfer has been completed.
- The transfer student must have been in good standing in their previous school to begin participation at Miller Middle School. Penalties imposed by the athletic department and/or the previous school's administration will be applied, or the equivalent Miller Middle School athletic department penalty will be applied to those students transferring into Miller. Student athletes who have been denied athletic participation at the previous school because of a disciplinary reason will be denied participation at Miller Middle School.
- Every Miller Middle School student athlete is required by the GHSA and the Miller Athletic Department to have a GHSA physical examination form completed and on file with the athletic office before conditioning, participation in a camp and when practice begins in any sport. Physical exams are the responsibility of the athlete and their parents.
- Student athletes must have passed at least five out of six classes in the previous semester.
- Incoming 6th graders are automatically eligible their first semester of Middle School.
- Students who transfer from one middle school to another will not be permitted to play the sport that is currently in season but can participate in the next seasons

sport. (Ex. A student is playing softball at Ballard and transfers to Miller. That student will not be able to play softball at Miller for the rest of that season)

PARTICIPATION STANDARDS AND GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP FOR MILLER MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT ATHLETES

The following Participation Standards for Student Athletes and Good Sportsmanship for Student Athletes reflect the standards by which Miller Middle School and its athletic department expect our student athletes to abide. Participation by student athletes is a privilege, not a right. It must be earned through perseverance, through challenges, having respect for all, investing in your learning environment, demonstrating strength of character, and epitomizing excellence. The coaches of each sport, with the authority of the athletic department and the middle school principal, will enforce the specific elements of the Code of Conduct.

PARTICIPATION STANDARDS FOR MILLER FINE ARTS MAGNET MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT ATHLETES

- Athletes are responsible for their uniforms and equipment. The athletic department will replace uniforms and equipment damaged or destroyed by competition. Student athletes will reimburse the athletic department for uniforms and equipment that has been lost or damaged.
- Coaches can create Athletic Handbooks with their own additional rules that are specific to their sport. These rules carry the same weight as do those of the athletic department and may carry specific penalties that would be administered and enforced by the coach of that team.
- Miller Middle School student athletes are expected to be a positive role model to the other students in our school.
- Student athletes are expected to read, understand, and abide by the rules found in this handbook.

STANDARDS OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

Good sportsmanship will always be the focal point of the Miller Middle School Athletic Department. It will be reflected in how we treat our teammates, coaches, officials, and opponents.

- Student athletes at Miller Middle School will place the positive and supportive relationship with their teammates and coaches as their highest priority. Regardless of the sport, individual or team, we are only as strong as how we treat each other.
- After all contests, Miller Middle School athletes are expected to shake hands with the athletes and coaches from the team(s) that we have competed against.

- After all contests, regardless of whether we agree or disagree with their calls, Miller Middle School athletes will thank the officials for their work in officiating the contest.
- After any contest where ribbons, medals or trophies are presented to the opposing team(s), Miller Middle School athletes will stay and watch and applaud the efforts of the athletes and team(s) involved in that contest. At no time will Miller Middle School athletes ever leave the field or floor while a presentation is being made.
- Miller Middle School athletes will not use inappropriate language while taking part in any contest.
- Though all sports have some level of physical contact and recognizing that hard physical aggressive contact is a major and important part of all sports, at no time will a Miller Middle School athlete engage in physical play that would result in unsportsmanlike conduct that would jeopardize the safety of the opposing athlete or the integrity of the Miller Middle School team.
- As a part of our district mission stewardship or taking care of an organization or property, is one of our 3 facets. Miller Athletes will assist in the responsibility of the upkeep of the grounds, practice, and competition areas of the school. This can simply be assisting in trash pickup after games, throwing away items once they are done with them, and keeping the locker rooms and fields neat and free of clutter. Volunteer opportunities are always available for all athletes that are not in their sport seasons to serve.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

Athletic Season: The athletic season is defined as the period that commences from the first legal day of practice, as defined by the Bibb County School District and concludes with the county championship date.

Athletic Schedule: The athletic schedules are those contests beginning with a scrimmage, if applicable, or the first contest of the season, and ending with the final contest of the season.

Removal From Participation Defined: Removal from participation as used in the following rules means, as a minimum, the removal of the student athlete from participation in interscholastic contests while practice may continue. There are occasions, due to the severity of the violation, when removal from participation will also include practices, competition and any other function that would be part of the responsibility that the student athlete has with their team. The coach of the sport will advise the student athlete as to the level of the removal.

Multiple Suspension Defined: Removal from participation for a percentage of the schedule would be a removal from a percentage of the total remaining games of the regular season schedule, plus the potential removal of playoff games.

Self-Report Policy: It is the intent of the Miller Middle School Athletic Department to assist student athletes with developing a sense of responsibility for their actions and to encourage honesty. Any student athlete who has violated any section of the Code of Conduct for Student Athletes found within the Athletic Student Handbook and reports that violation to their coach and/or the athletic department within a reasonable time, will be permitted lenience in their penalty.

Consequences: Student athletes who test positive for tobacco and/or drugs; have been arrested or convicted of committing a crime; or violate athletic or school rules will be immediately removed from all athletic activities, including practices.

- A student athlete that has violated a school rule and has completed a disciplinary hearing with a Miller Middle School administrator may be subject to additional punishment under the Miller Middle School Athletic Student Handbook and/or an individual coach policy. Student athletes suspended out of school are also removed from participation for the duration of the suspension and may not participate in practice or contests until the athlete returns to school.

*The coach of each sport may set specific team rules in addition to those found in the Athletic Student Handbook. These rules will be given to the athletes by the coach at the first meeting or practice of that sport.

Reporting of Violations: Violations of the Code of Conduct for Student Athletes and/or violations of any portion of the Athletic Student Handbook should be reported immediately to the appropriate head coach or to the Miller Middle School Athletic Department.

Carry Over Of Penalties From Season To Season: If the violation of the Code of Conduct for Student Athletes or a violation of Miller Middle School rules occurs in the last part of an athletic schedule of athletic season and the student athlete cannot fulfill the remaining terms of their penalty in that sport, the remaining portions of the removal from participation will carry over into the next interscholastic sport that the student athlete will be involved.

Serving of Penalties: Penalties for violations of the Code of Conduct for Student Athletes or any other violation of Miller Middle School rules or those rules of the coach within a sport will be imposed immediately and will be served in the order that the contests are scheduled.

Athletic Participation During a Period of Removal from Participation: During the period that a student athlete has been removed from participation, and with the exception of the student athlete that has been removed from participation for practices and contests, the student athlete is expected to be present at all athletic contests and practices involving their team. The student athlete is a member of the team and is expected to fulfill this responsibility. If the athlete does not attend a contest or practice or any other function scheduled by the coach, credit will not be given toward fulfilling the requirements of the removal from participation.

Appeals to the Athletic Department: A student athlete and their parent(s) or guardian(s) have the right to a hearing on a removal from participation by notifying the Miller Middle School Athletic Director by phone or in writing within two (2) school days after the removal.

The right of appeal is forfeited if this is not requested within these two (2) daytimes limit. The purpose of the appeal hearing is to inquire into the student athlete's alleged violation and allow the athlete and parents or guardians to present evidence on behalf of the student athlete. The removal from participation will remain in effect during the appeal hearing.

Appeals to the Principal: The student athlete has the right to appeal against the decision of the athletic department to the building principal. The notification of the intent to appeal to the principal must be made by phone or in writing within two (2) school days after the Athletic Director's decision. The right of appeal is forfeited if this is not requested within this two (2) day limit. The purpose of the appeal hearing is to inquire into the student athlete's alleged violation and allow the athlete and parent(s) or guardian(s) to present evidence on behalf of the student athlete. The removal from participation will remain in effect during the appeal hearing. Following the hearing with the principal, the student athlete and the parent(s) or guardian(s) will be notified within two (2) school days by the principal as to the decision.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS/FANS

Practice: All practices are closed to parents. Parents should not approach coaches during practice times. Coaches are not obligated to discuss playing time with parents. A meeting should be requested with the head coach and the Athletic Coordinator if warranted.

Games: Parents should not be near the coaching area at any time during warm-ups or game play. Parents should stay in the stands and demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times. Parents and spectators should cheer in a positive way for their student-athletes and their teams and not make disparaging remarks about the other team or officials. If parents are found to be guilty of negative behavior, they may be removed from the gym/field/etc. Further issues could result in fans being banned for the season. Parents should not approach coaches after the game to discuss any issues. A meeting should be requested with the head coach and the Athletic Coordinator if warranted.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

Accidents/Injuries: All accidents or injuries incurred in practice or a contest in the Bibb County sanctioned sports are to be reported to the coach immediately. This will allow for the appropriate sports medicine support from our sports medicine provider and their medical personnel.

Athletic Fee: All student-athletes will be required to pay a one-time athletic fee. This fee will give athletes free entry into all Miller Middle School home events. This does not include tournaments or playoffs. This fee **MUST** be paid before the athlete's first contest, or the student-athlete will not be able to participate. Any issues must be brought to the Athletic Director. If a student quits or is removed from the team, they will not be reimbursed their fee.

Changing Sports: If a student athlete is cut from a team, they may join another team in that sport season. A student athlete cannot quit one sport to join another sport until the original sport season has concluded. However, athletes will be allowed to transfer from one sport to another during a given season upon mutual agreement of both coaches and the athletic director.

Cloth Uniform Purchase: Student athletes who purchase cloth uniforms as a part of being rostered on a team, i.e., hooded sweatshirt, equipment or shoes, etc., are responsible for the cost of those items regardless of whether they remain with the team or quit prior to or during the season. Failure to pay will result in those costs being placed on the debt list with Miller Middle School. Students will not be able to participate in another sport until all uniforms from the previous sport have been turned in or the debt has been paid for lost uniform/equipment.

Conflicts Between Activities: Student athletes at Miller Fine Arts Magnet Middle School are involved in a great number of school-related activities away from sports. Conflicts are going to happen between a student athlete's commitment to their sport and other school-related activities. If the conflict is between an academic/magnet class resulting in a credit and grade and an athletic contest or practice, the academic class takes precedent. Student athletes are encouraged to review their time commitment very closely before becoming involved in too many activities. Because of the demands of athletics at Miller Middle School, it is very difficult to miss practices and contests and not get behind.

Dress: As representatives of Miller Middle School athletics, when competing in a contest or taking part in any kind of award program or team function, student athletes are expected to dress and wear their clothing in an appropriate manner.

Hazing/Initiations: Hazing or an initiation of any team member by other team members is prohibited.

Participation in Two Sports in One Season: Student athletes may participate in more than one sport during a season. The coaches involved with this athlete will be expected to meet with the prospective student athlete and discuss and agree as to how this will take place. The student athlete will be asked to declare one of the sports as their primary sport for the duration of the season. This declaration will be used to resolve any conflicts that might arise between the two sports.

Participation after an injury: A student athlete cannot return to a practice/contest after an injury where the athlete was seen by a medical authority until released by an appropriate licensed medical authority. A parent(s) cannot grant approval to return to practice/contest that would be against the judgments of licensed medical personnel.

Playing Time: Playing time is not guaranteed at the middle school level. Playing time will be decided by the head coach from the respective sports. Playing time will be determined by attendance, effort, and attitude at practice. Head coaches are not obligated to discuss playing time with parents.

Practices: Regular, Vacation and on School Closing Days: Student athletes are expected to attend all practices unless excused by their coach. The coach sets practice schedules during school vacations and only the coach can excuse an athlete. If there is a school closing, the coach will contact the individual team members and advise as to what will happen.

School Day Attendance: Student athletes who are absent from school will not participate, work, or attend any school events on that day unless excused by the principal or athletic director.

Selection of Teams: Each coach will have their own policy as to how they will choose their teams. Some of our sports allow all those who tryout to participate while others require a selection process to have the appropriate number of student athletes on the teams. At the beginning of the season, the head coach will meet with the student athletes who are trying out for the team and discuss the selection criteria for the team.

AWARDS CEREMONY INFORMATION FOR MILLER MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT ATHLETES

At Miller Middle School, all student athletes participating in interscholastic sports and cheerleading are eligible for athletic awards. The coach of each sport will decide on the selection process for awards. Students must finish the season to receive an award. Students will not be recognized at the awards ceremony if their uniform has not been turned in.

No Call/ No Show: All athletes that participate in athletics are required to come to the sports banquet. If a student- athlete does not call his or her coach or show up to the banquet they will not receive an award.

Uniforms: Each sport has an assigned uniform that will be given to students. Each student is responsible for this uniform for the duration of the season. All uniforms must be returned within a week of the last game. Students will not be able to participate in the next sports season unless their previous uniform is turned in. Students/Parents will be responsible for the cost of a lost uniform.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE RISK OF INJURY FOUND IN MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS

Participation in middle school athletics carries with it the very real potential for injury. It is reasonable to believe that at least one time during the three-year career of our student athletes, they will face an injury that will result in missing one or more days of practice or contests. It must be clearly understood by our student athletes and their families that even with the proper coaching and support of our coaching staff, the use of proper equipment and tremendous facilities, injuries will take place. These injuries can range from, but not limited to, mild soreness, bruises, sprains and strains, dislocations, broken bones, and concussions. It should also be clearly understood that some of these athletic injuries might result in catastrophic injuries including partial or full paralysis and in some instances the athlete may die. We need your help as a student athlete and as a family. Proper rest, nutrition and adherence to the rules and guidelines established by the Miller Middle School Athletic Department and the coaches of your sport will go a long way to ensure that injuries do not happen.

SUMMARY

Miller Fine Arts Magnet School is a member of the Bibb County School District and abides by its rules and regulations. This is only a summary of the rules. Additional questions regarding the Bibb County and the Miller Middle School Athletic Program should be directed to the Principal, Athletic Director, or members of the coaching staff. All Athletes and their parents or guardians must be aware of the possibility of serious injury when they participate in a sports program. Sometimes the injury could be serious enough to have an altering effect on their quality of life.

It is the policy of Miller Middle School not to discriminate based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or handicap.

Acknowledgment of Receipt of Student Code of Conduct

The undersigned hereby acknowledges receipt of a copy of the Miller Fine Arts Magnet Middle School Athletics Handbook. My parents and I have received, read, and discussed the Miller Middle School Athletics Handbook, and we agree to fully abide by the same.

We understand that additional information affecting Miller athletes is posted on the Miller website, and that it is our responsibility to review and abide by that information. We understand the options available to us if we do not have internet access at our homes.

We have been provided with information regarding possible consequences and penalties for failure to comply with the Miller Middle School Athletics handbook.

Signature of Student

Date

Print Name of Student

Signature of Parent

Date