

WEWOKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

2019 - 2020

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According to the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association, being in athletics is a privilege and not a right.

The Wewoka Public Schools Athletic Program will provide a variety of experiences to aid in the development of favorable habits and attitudes in students and will prepare them for adult life in a democratic society.

Athletics should function as an integral part of the total curriculum. It should offer opportunities to serve the institution, to assist in the development of fellowship and goodwill, to promote self-realization and all-around growth, and to encourage learning the qualities of good citizenship.

Young people learn a great deal from their participation in interscholastic athletics. Lessons in sportsmanship, teamwork, discipline, leadership, competition, and how to win and lose gracefully are an integral part in helping the individual student develop a healthy body. Athletic competition adds to our school spirit and helps all students-spectators as well as participants-develop pride in their school.

The athletic program should always be in conformity with the general objectives of the school. The athletic administration should be in line with the general policies of the institution. At no time should the program place the total education curriculum secondary in emphasis; the program should constantly strive for the development of well-rounded individuals, capable of taking their place in modern society.

Parents should strive to help their children to achieve their fullest potential by seeing that the student is on time, attends practices and games, and follows the rules and regulations.

Section 1) STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of the Wewoka Public Schools Athletic Department is to provide the students of Wewoka, the opportunity to be a part of a competitive team through a variety of sports programs. At Wewoka, we believe that athletics are extremely important in the development of the mind as well as the body. As an athlete you are a role model for others and as a result, higher standards of behavior and performance are expected. It is a privilege to represent your family, your school and your community. Therefore, positive leadership as well as high levels of achievement academically and athletically are expected. Winning is very important, however, handling setbacks and learning how to deal with adversity is equally important. Being successful is not always recorded on the scoreboard or in the win-loss records. Wewoka Public Schools is committed to excellence in all that we do, and acknowledging the quest itself is the most significant aspect of achievement.

Section 2) INTRODUCTION

It is the responsibility of the student-athlete and their parents/guardians to take the time to read the following rules and policies and to make sure the student/athlete understands his/her role in athletics. These standards have been approved by the School Board, Superintendent, Principal, Athletic Director, and all Head Coaches. The following rules are approved for all Wewoka Public School athletes, managers, cheerleaders, or other students involved in support of an athletic team. The coach of a particular sport may require rules in addition to these rules. Participation in Wewoka School Athletics is a privilege, and not a right.

Section 3) SPORTS OFFERED

Fall

Boys- Cross Country and Football

Girls- Cheerleading, Cross Country, and Fast-Pitch Softball

Winter

Boys- Basketball, Powerlifting

Girls- Basketball

Spring

Boys- Baseball, Golf, and Track

Girls- Golf, Slow-Pitch Softball, and Track

Section 4) EXPECTATIONS OF ATHLETES

Athletes at Wewoka Public School are expected to be a positive role model both in and out of school. They are expected to treat authority figures with the respect due, and to take an active and productive role in the classroom and the community in general. Also, they are expected to live up to all team, department, and school rules and policies. As an athlete of Wewoka Public School, the student-athlete is expected to perform at a higher standard of expectations. We are proud of our students in athletics and hope that everyone's experiences are enjoyable, challenging, and rewarding.

Section 5) Required Forms

1. Athletic Physical Form
2. Acknowledgment of Wewoka Public Schools Athletic Policy
3. Insurance Release Form
4. Concussion Waiver Release Form

Section 6) Rules

1. Do What's Right.
2. Student-Athletes will adhere to the Wewoka Student Handbook covering all rules and procedures
3. An athlete shall not possess, sell, use, or be under the influence of tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, or intoxicants of any kind. He/She will be punished upon admission or proof of offense.
4. All athletes will be subject to Random Drug Testing in accordance with District Policy.
5. Wewoka Public School is governed by the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association. While athletes may not know each and every rule of the OSSAA, they should contact their coach or athletic director if they have any questions concerning the rules and regulations of the OSSAA. If athletes know of any violation of these rules and regulations, it is their responsibility to bring this to the attention of their coach and/or Athletic Director.
6. Athletes are responsible for the care of athletic equipment issued to them, and will be expected to pay for any lost equipment or equipment which is damaged by carelessness.

7. An athlete shall practice and participate in only one sport at a time, unless the coaches agree to share an athlete in a second program. In this case, both coaches, and the athlete, will meet to outline the season in the best interest of the athlete. (Non-school sports or “club teams” are not governed by this rule and school teams will take precedence).
8. An athlete who has been suspended from school cannot play in contests during the suspension.
9. An athlete who is in ISD cannot play in contests during the suspension.
10. In order for an athlete to be eligible for participation, they must be in attendance for at least one-half of the school day the event occurs.
11. Student athletes are subject to punishment for offenses as deemed necessary by the Head Coach, Athletic Director, and/or Principal.

Section 7) ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

The OSSAA, of which Wewoka Public Schools is a voluntary member, requires student-athletes to be passing all subjects or equivalents. Athletics can be a very important part of one’s school experience, but academic success is our foremost important goal. We expect our student athletes to perform to their potential academically and athletically, to best prepare them for their 21st Century life experience.

Section 8) NCAA CLEARINGHOUSE

Student-Athletes with aspirations of playing at the collegiate level need to obtain information from the counselor. More information is also available at the NCAA website, www.NCAA.org

Section 9) INSURANCE

Wewoka Public Schools does not carry medical/hospitalization insurance for its athletes. This is considered to be the responsibility of the parent/guardian. However, there is a plan available at school that the parent can purchase at a reasonable rate. The Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association provides to each school and athlete a catastrophic plan that has a \$25,000 deductible (your own basic coverage would cover this). The benefits from this policy are open ended.

Section 10) TRANSPORTATION POLICY

The athletic team of which your son/daughter is a member will be making several trips during the course of the competition season. We will be making these trips on a safety-checked bus/ suburban driven by an adult-licensed bus driver (or in the case of

the school suburban, a coach) 6 with coaches on board for supervision. The student-athlete will be required to travel by transportation provided by the school, both to and from the athletic event. We realize there will be extenuating circumstances, which may require students to use private vehicles driven by their parents/guardians. Permission to not travel by school transportation will only be granted by the building principal.

Section 11) MEDICAL REGULATIONS

Schools are not permitted to administer any type of medication without written permission from the parent/guardian. The coach should be provided with all medication required to be taken by the student-athlete, prior to any athletic event.

Section 12) INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

If school is dismissed early for inclement weather, there will NOT be any athletic activities after school on that day. If school is canceled for the entire day, coaches may get approval of the Administration to hold an optional practice. No punitive action may be taken against any player who cannot attend practice on inclement weather days.

Section 13) COMMUNICATION

The Wewoka Athletic Department supports an open line of communication between coaches, athletes, and parents. Each coach is a unique individual and has his/her own style, but they all care about our student-athletes. When a concern arises with your son/daughter, below is the appropriate procedure to follow:

1. Have your son/daughter speak directly to his/her immediate coach at an appropriate time when the coach is not coaching or teaching. For example, If your son/daughter is on the basketball team, he/she should speak to the coach after practice.
2. If a concern still exists, you as a parent should set up a meeting with the coach(es) who work(s) directly with your child. This should be set up ahead of time with an appointment. Attempting to talk to a coach before or after an athletic event is NOT considered an appropriate time, and the athletic office does not expect our coaches to participate in a meeting with a parent during these times. Confrontations after an event are nonproductive and not acceptable. Talk to coaches at the appropriate time with an appointment scheduled in advance. We follow the twenty four hour policy meaning please wait until the day after an issue arises to set up an appointment.

3. If a concern still exists after steps 1 & 2, contact the Athletic Director. Again schedule an appointment to ensure availability. The athlete, coach, parent(s), Athletic Director, and Principal will meet to resolve the situation.

Section 14) RISK STATEMENT

As one embarks to participate in athletics at Wewoka Public School there are several things the student and parents should consider:

Participating in athletics presents a possibility of injury. Most injuries that occur are relatively minor scrapes, scratches, sprains, strains, etc. However, more serious injuries are possible. More serious injuries could possibly include cuts, muscle tears, tendon or ligament damage, neck and spinal cord injuries, and head injuries. It should be recognized that these conditions may require major surgery, or may result in paralysis or even death. The coaching staff of each sport will teach proper techniques for each skill and provide safe areas for practice and competition. Your awareness is imperative that these injuries are possible and following directions can save your life. Your coaches will provide additional information regarding potentially dangerous activities in their sport. Athletics builds character, leadership and confidence. It is not always the best athlete who succeeds, but the one who is most determined and committed to the attainment of their goal. How good can you be?...

Section 15) CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS AND FANS

The OSSAA expects each member school to provide a safe environment that promotes good sportsmanship for fans, officials, coaches, and players. At a time when society is experiencing increased incidents of physical confrontations and unmanaged anger associated with sports at all levels, Wewoka Public School wishes to keep our athletes, officials, coaches, and fans safe by insisting on proper behavior and promoting our positive reputation for good sportsmanship.

We are proud that the majority of our parents and fans set a behavioral example of the highest standard. However, we are forced to address the issue by the few who do not act appropriately.

Wewoka Public Schools will not condone or permit inappropriate behavior directed toward players, school staff, the opposing school, or game officials (no matter how bad they may appear to be to you). Such behavior can cause the school to suffer severe sanctions from the OSSAA. It is embarrassing to our school and community.

Wewoka Public Schools supports the OSSAA rules and the emphasis on good sportsmanship. Proper courtesy, behavior and decorum must apply to all situations, and sports are no exception. Parents need to understand the characteristics of the structure of school athletics and relationships involved.

1. Participation in school athletics is a privilege, not a right. Coaches will retain only those players whose skills and attitudes to meet the needs of the program, as defined by the coach.
2. The coach alone is responsible for deciding who plays and how much.
3. By allowing one's child to play sports, the parent is, in effect, turning over the child to the coach for the period of time the player is in the sport. The coach will instruct the child and keep the child safe within normally accepted standards.
4. Coaches are professionals and are operating within the best interests of all student-athletes in their charge.
5. It is inappropriate for parents or fans to confront a coach after practice or event. Parents who have a concern are asked to contact the coach and schedule a meeting at the appropriate time to avoid conflict at a potentially emotional time (as stated in section 13).
6. Cursing or making derogatory comments about the officials, coaches, players on either team, other parents or fans at an athletic event will not be tolerated and the fan will be removed.
7. Attending an athletic event while intoxicated is not acceptable and the fan will be removed.
8. Parents and fans that violate any of the above standards of behavior risk sanctions by the District including, but not limited to:
 - a. A verbal or written warning.
 - b. Removal from the contest or premises.
 - c. A ban from all school activities for up to 6 months.
 - d. Civil or legal action.

We strive to make good sportsmanship at Crescent School an expectation; where the players play, the coaches coach, the officials officiate, and the FANS ARE POSITIVE!

Wewoka Athletic Handbook Signature Page

I hereby agree that I have read the above information state in the Wewoka Public Schools Athletic Policy and understand what is expected from my student athlete and myself.

Guardian Signature: _____

Guardian Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Student Name: _____

Administrator Signature: _____

Administrator Name: _____