

FUSD K-8 LEAGUE
BY-LAWS

Statement of Purpose

The athletic programs within the K-8 schools are planned to provide an educationally sound and competitive athletic opportunity for sixth through eighth grade students (except for football and wrestling).

The values and objectives of this program are to develop and maintain on the part of the participant:

1. Physical skills necessary in the sport of activity.
2. Awareness of progressive skill requirements needed to continue to grow in the specific sport or activity.
3. A sense of loyalty, team play, cooperation and sportsmanship which will have a “carry over” value in later life.
4. Respect for the efforts, abilities and rights of others (especially in regards to opponents and officials).
5. Awareness of leadership and responsibility in school, community and life contacts both on and off the playing arena.

It is the purpose of the K-8 FUSD Athletic Program to offer athletics at a competitive level for our student athletes. Our team will be composed of 6th and 8th grade students (except for football and wrestling) which will be determined by a three day try-out before the season begins.

Allotted number of positions available at each school in each sport is as follows:

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Max Number of participants</u>
<u>Baseball</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Softball</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Football</u>	<u>36</u>
<u>Volleyball</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Basketball</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>(Boys/Girls)</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Soccer</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>(Boys/Girls)</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Wrestling (Individual)</u>	<u>17 weights</u>
<u>Cheer Fall/Winter</u> <u>One Team</u>	<u>15</u>

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(Eligibility of Athletes)

(Age Requirement) Any student who turns fifteen (15) years of age on or before September 1 of the current school year will be ineligible to compete.

(Attendance Requirement) All athletes must attend at least half day of school on the day of competition to be eligible to participate.

All athletes must be registered students of the school which they represent. Home schooled students will be permitted to participate at the school in their attendance area. ***Must provide weekly grade check, proof of enrollment, and proof of attendance area.

(Three-Year Eligibility) All athletes participating in athletic activities will only be allowed to have three years of athletic eligibility during their K-8 tenure. **Exception: Wrestling

(Academic Eligibility) The following conditions apply:

- a. Any athlete with an F will be considered ineligible for one week. (M-M)
- b. Grade checks will be done every Friday and the ineligibility period will run Monday to Monday of the following week.
- c. All core and specials classes will be used in determining eligibility.
- d. A grade check will be run prior to the start of the season. Any athlete that is not academically eligible will not be allowed to try out. (Excluding the fall season of sport)
- e. Any student/athlete that has been declared academically ineligible three (3) times in any given season will be removed from his/her team for the remainder of that season of sport.
- f. In the event that a teacher error resulted in an athlete being declared ineligible, a grade change and resulting change in eligibility status must be addressed by noon on Monday.
- g. The site administrator has final say in determining the eligibility status in cases where extenuating circumstances may exist.

(Sportsmanship Rule)

(Unsportsmanlike Conduct)

- a. If an official, administrator or tournament director deems the action of a coach, student-athlete or fan to be unsportsmanlike, a warning may be given to this participant that a continuation of the misconduct will result in removal from the contest. It is not necessary however, for an official to provide a warning in some instances before removing them.
- b. Any participant ejected from the game by a game official or tournament director, shall be given two (2) minutes to vacate the premises. Premises are defined as the total area of the contest and any spectator area including bleachers, crowd's nests, press box, lobby etc. The coach may not return to watch the game and/or make any decisions for the team the remainder of the contest or tournament.

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- c. In the event a coach has been ejected, an assistant coach or responsible school official must be assigned to supervise and direct the team for the remainder of the contest. A responsible school official can be an administrator, athletic director, counselor, teacher or board member. Unless a parent falls under these criteria they are NOT a responsible school official. If a responsible school official is not located in a timely manner the school must forfeit the contest.

(Penalties for Ejections) A coach or student-athlete ejected from a contest for any reason shall be subject to the following without appeal:

- a. **FIRST EJECTION:** Ineligible for the next contest at that level of competition and all other contests during that interim at any level. A coach or player that is ejected may NOT compete for the remainder of the day.
- b. **SECOND EJECTION:** Ineligible for the next two contests at that level of competition and all other contests during that interim.
- c. **THIRD EJECTION:** Ineligible for the remainder of the season for that particular sport.
- d. **END OF THE SEASON EJECTION:** If the ejection occurs at the end of the season (last game) and no contests remain, the penalty shall be enforced at the beginning of the subsequent season of competition in which the coach or player participates regardless of the sport.

(Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco)

(Prohibited Substance) Any coach or athlete using any vaping products, tobacco, alcoholic beverages or misusing drugs at any time on or near district property, shall be removed from the team or event.

(Hazing)

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HAZING

There shall be no hazing, solicitation to engage in hazing, or aiding and abetting another who is engaged in hazing of any person enrolled, accepted for or promoted to enrollment, or intending to enroll or be promoted to District schools within twelve (12) calendar months. For purposes of this policy a person as specified above shall be considered a "student" until graduation, transfer, promotion or withdrawal from the District school.

"Hazing" means any intentional, knowing or reckless act committed by a student, whether individually or in concert with other persons, against another student, and in which both of the following apply:

- The act was committed in connection with an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in any organization that is affiliated with an education institution.
- The act contributes to a substantial risk of potential physical injury, mental harm or degradation, or causes physical injury, mental harm or personal degradation.

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"Organization" means an athletic team, association, order, society, corps, cooperative, club, or similar group that is affiliated with an educational institution and whose membership consists primarily of students enrolled at that educational institution.

It is no defense to a violation of this policy if the victim consented or acquiesced to hazing.

In accord with statute, violations of this policy do not include either of the following:

- Customary athletic events, contests or competitions that are sponsored by an educational institution.

- Any activity or conduct that furthers the goals of a legitimate educational curriculum, a legitimate extracurricular program, or a legitimate military training program.

All students, teachers and staff shall take reasonable measures within the scope of their individual authority to prevent violations of this policy.

Students and others may report hazing to any professional staff member.

Professional staff members must report the incident to the school administrator or next higher administrative supervisor, in writing, with such details as may have been provided. A failure by a staff member to timely inform the school administrator or next higher administrative supervisor of a hazing allegation or their observation of an incident of hazing may subject the staff member to disciplinary action in accord with District policies. The staff member shall preserve the confidentiality of those involved, disclosing the incident only to the appropriate school administrator or next higher administrative supervisor or as otherwise required by law. Any instance of reported or observed hazing which includes possible child abuse or violations of statutes known to the staff member shall be treated in accord with statutory requirements and be reported to a law enforcement agency.

To assure that students and staff are aware of its content and intent, a notice of this policy and procedure shall be posted conspicuously in each school building and shall be made a part of the rights and responsibilities section of the student handbook. Forms for submitting complaints are to be available to students and staff in the school offices.

Disposition of all reports/complaints shall be reported to the Superintendent. The Superintendent will determine if the policies of the District have been appropriately implemented and will make such reports and/or referrals to the Board as may be necessary.

All violations of this policy shall be treated in accordance with the appropriate procedures and penalties provided for in District policies related to the conduct and discipline of students, staff, and others.

Adopted: date of Manual adoption

**FUSD K-8 LEAGUE
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(Sport-Specific Rules)**

(Football)

- a. One team will be made up of 7th and 8th grade students. 6th grader students may not play football.
- b. A master league schedule will be established each year for participating schools.
- c. Each game will consist of four (4) quarters, which are eight (8) minutes in length.
- d. The approved game ball is an official junior high regulation ball.
- e. National Federation Rules shall apply.
- f. There shall be a minimum of 10 practices (Tryouts included) prior to the first regular season game. The two weeks shall be mandatory. If a student comes out for football late (after the first day of practice) that student must have at least ten days of practice prior to competing in a game.
- g. A minimum of three officials are required (one certified) to conduct a game, although four officials are highly recommended.
- h. During regular season and playoffs a game cannot end in a tie; overtime rules will be used to determine the winner.
- i. Season records will be used to seed the tournament.
- j. Once the difference in the score is 30 pts we will use a running clock.
- k. Screw in cleats are allowed as long as they are plastic. Molded plastic or rubber bottom cleats are the suggested approved footwear. (No metal)
- l. Playing time is at the discretion of the coach.

Volleyball

- a. A master league schedule will be established each year for participating schools.
- b. Seven four and one eighth inch (7'4 1/8") net height
- c. Ten (10') foot spike line
- d. During the regular season teams will follow HS rules. 2 games to 25 pts, and a 3rd one to 15 pts if necessary.
- e. Rally scoring will be used.
- f. Season records will be used to seed the tournament.
- g. During the tournament best 2 out of 3 games. First two games to 25 points, if needed third game to 15 points.
- h. Playing time is at the discretion of the coach.

(Boys/Girls Basketball)

- a. A master league schedule will be established each year for participating schools.
- b. Official High School regulation, leather boy's/girl's basketball is required to be used.
- c. During regular season and playoffs games there will be four 7 minute quarters with a 1 minute break between quarters and a 5 minute half.
- d. During the regular season, a game cannot end in a tie. Overtime rules apply.
- e. No numbering restrictions on uniforms.
- f. Mercy rule in effect when one team is up by 20 points, (Running clock and leading team cannot press full court). If the team that is down cuts into the lead from 20 points to 10 points, the clock continues to run. Once the mercy rule is implemented it stays for the remainder of the game.
- g. NFHS rules used.

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- h. League tournament at the conclusion of the regular season. (All teams will qualify)
- i. Season records will be used to seed the tournament
- j. Playing time is at the discretion of the coach.

(Baseball/Softball)

- a. A master league schedule will be established each year for participating schools.
- b. NFHS rules used with the exceptions listed below.
 - a. During the regular season games will be six (6) innings in length or 2 hrs.

Regular Season Pitching Rules - Baseball

VI - PITCHERS

a) Any player on a regular season team may pitch. (**NOTE:** There is no limit to the number of pitchers a team may use in a game.)

(b) A pitcher once removed from the mound/game cannot return as a pitcher. A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game, but only once per game.

(c) The manager must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the limit for his/her age group as noted below, but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position:

11-12 - 85 pitches per day

Exception: If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed in Regulation VI (c) for his/her league age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs: 1. That batter reaches base; 2. That batter is put out; 3. The third out is made to complete the half-inning. **Note 1: A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.**

Note 2: Any player who has played the position of catcher in four or more innings in a game is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day.

(d) League must adhere to the following rest requirements:

- If a player pitches 66 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 51-65 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 36-50 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 21-35 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 1-20 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest is required
- During the regular season, pitch count limit is determined after each single game appearance.
- Only official game pitches count, this includes foul balls. (all strikes, balls & pitches that result in the ball being placed in play).

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- Dead ball (Balks and pitches thrown but time has been called) do not count.
- Both coaches will sign off on required paperwork after the game, to verify the pitch counts.
- The home team will be responsible for keeping track of the pitch counts for both teams.
- The pitch count chart will be used.
- Coaches are encouraged to consult with each other at the end of each inning, to eliminate issues.
 - c. Re-entry rules apply for player substitution. Any of the nine starting players (including the pitcher) may use re-entry. If the starting player leaves the game and re-enters, they must bat in their original hitting position.
 - d. A courtesy runner may be used for either the pitcher or catcher. The courtesy runner may not be a player currently in the game.
 - e. Umpires may call the game for insufficient light or adverse weather conditions.
 - f. If the game was called due to weather after 4 complete innings the last complete inning will determine the winner. If less than 4 complete innings the game will be rescheduled.
 - g. A ten run rule is in effect after 4 complete innings. After 2 complete innings if the score reaches a 20pt spread the game will be called.
 - h. Adult member coaches may occupy coaching boxes and are not required to be in uniform.
 - i. A player is permitted to occupy one of the coaching boxes, but must be in uniform and wear a helmet.
 - j. A team may use a designated hitter (DH) If the DH enters the game to play defense the DH is lost for the rest of the game.
 - k. Line up cards (2) should be presented to the home plate umpire and opposing coach prior to the game.
 - l. Ground rules are covered prior to the start of the game.
 - m. During the season and playoffs tiebreaker rules apply.
 - n. Season records will be used to seed the tournament.
 - o. Playing time is at the discretion of the coach.
 - p. Screw in cleats are allowed as long as they are plastic. (No Metal Cleats Are Allowed)
 - q. Home teams will provide official NFHS game balls.

(Cheer)

- a. The sport is open to all 6th - 8th grade athletes.
- b. A master league schedule will be established each year for participating schools.
- c. NFHS rules used.
- d. During regular season cheer squads will cheer at all football games and at all basketball games.
- e. At the end of each cheer season there will be a district cheer competition.
- f. At the end of FB cheer season the competition will be a show cheer competition.
- g. At the end of BB cheer season the competition will be a dance competition.

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- h. Stunt Restrictions: All stunts will follow the United Spirit Association INTERMEDIATE guidelines. These guidelines can be found at <https://usa.varsity.com/Competitions/Spirit-Nationals>.
- i. Basket tosses are not permitted at the junior high level per National Federation of High School rules.
- j. It shall be the purpose of cheer teams to promote and uphold team spirit for those you encounter, to develop good sportsmanship by example, to support good relations in the community and between teams and squads during events. Cheer team's primary purpose is to support the athletic programs of their schools. Competition is secondary to supporting the athletic programs.

(Boys/Girls Soccer)

- a. There will be a boys and girls team. The sport is open to all 6th - 8th grade athletes.
- b. A master league schedule will be established each year for participating schools.
- c. NFHS rules used.
- d. During the season and playoffs there will be two 25 minute halves, running time, with a 5 minute halftime.
- e. Season records will be used to seed the tournament.
- f. Regular season games CAN end in a tie. No overtime play in the regular season. In the playoffs only, we will follow tiebreaker rules.
- g. Playing time is at the discretion of the coach.

- h. All soccer players must have shin guards (AIA requires NOCSAE approved guards) Screw-in cleats are not allowed; molded plastic or rubber bottom cleats are the only approved footwear. No metal cleats allowed.

Wrestling

- A. Open practices will be held at Florence High School, Poston Butte High School, Walker Butte, San Tan Foothills, and Magma Ranch. Transportation will be provided to practice but athletes will be responsible to arrange transportation home from practice.
- B. Athletes must wear wrestling shoes, shorts and t-shirt.
- C. Athletes with braces must wear a mouthpiece.
- D. Practice locations; Florence K8 and Anthem K8 will practice at FHS. Walker Butte and Skyline Ranch will practice at Walker Butte. Copper Basin and Circle Cross Ranch will practice at PBHS. San Tan Heights will practice at San Tan Foothills. Magma Ranch K8 practice will be held at Magma Ranch.
- E. This sport is open to all 4th-8th grade male and female student athletes.

Wrestling General Information

- A. Each school will field one team based on weight classification only. All additional matches will be exhibition matches only and not count toward team score.
- B. All three periods are to be one (1) minute in length plus one minute sudden death in the district tournament matches.
- C. Regular season matches that end in a tie, will remain a tie.
- D. A wrestler may wrestle in a PE type uniform.
- E. Headgear is required. Mouthpieces will be required for athletes with dental braces.

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- F. Nineteen (19) weight classes constitute a full team.
- G. Super heavyweight - If both schools have wrestlers over 225 pounds, no more than a 25-pound differential will be allowed; it will not count in scoring of dual or tournament meets.
- H. All decisions pertaining to the bracketing of the conference tournament will be decided at the coaches meeting and will be ABSOLUTELY FINAL. **All decisions pertaining to the bracketing of the conference tournament will be decided by the tournament director and coaches. Each wrestler will be drawn according to their rank order (highly skilled to low skilled).**
- I. One official is required.
- J. At the District Tournament, a wrestler will be seeded based on a random draw. Wrestling down a weight class by intentionally cutting weight is absolutely forbidden.
- K. The Florence USD discourages the cutting of weight for any wrestler at any time.

Weight Classes

63 & 68 were added

- 73lbs 125lbs
- 78lbs 133lbs
- 83lbs 142lbs
- 88lbs 154lbs
- 93lbs 167lbs
- 98lbs 180lbs
- 104lbs 200lbs Heavyweight max.
- 111lbs 201lbs – 225lbs Super Heavyweight max.
- 118lbs (25lbs maximum differential on weights over 225 – no points awarded)

Wrestling Tournaments:

- A. There will be weekly Tri/Bi meets at each location. These will not count for team scores. These matches are to promote “mat time”.
- B. There will be a mid-season tournament held at the high school after the 4th week of practice.
- C. There will be an end of the season tournament held at the high school after the 7th week of practice
- D. Tournaments will be a random draw individual bracket format.
- E. Coaches will weigh in wrestlers at the practice previous to the tournament.
- F. Four mats will be used for the tournament. Each mat will be split down the middle to increase the available space.
- G. High school wrestlers from FHS, STFH and PBHS **or volunteers** will act as officials for the tournaments.
- H. Medals will be awarded for 1st – 4th place finishers.
- I. School points will be awarded. The school with the most points will receive an award. **Only one wrestler per weight class will be scored for each team. The head coach must select thier scoring wrestler PRIOR to the tournament.**

Required Equipment:

- A. t-shirt, shorts, tennis shoes/wrestling shoes

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- B. **mouthpiece if have braces**
- C. **headgear**
- D. **skull cap for hair exceeding eyebrow length**
- E. **singlet's may be worn for tournaments**
- F. **braces or adaptive equipment if needed**

Specific Sport Tie Breaker Rules

Football

Over Time Procedure: At the end of the fourth quarter and the score is tied, the NFHS tiebreaker rule will be in effect. There will now be a three-minute intermission during which both teams may confer with their coaches. During the intermission the official will meet the captains at the center of the field for a coin toss. The winner of the toss shall be given the choice of defense or offense or which end of the field the ball will be put in play. Each team shall be permitted one additional time-out for each extra period. AFTER THE COIN TOSS - (Offensive team) will put the ball in play first and ten on (defensive team) 10-yard line. The possession shall be terminated if the offense scores or the defense has possession of the ball at the end of any down, or offense fails to make the line-to-line gain. After the offense has completed its possession, the defense will become the offensive team. In order to ensure equal game conditions, both teams shall use the same goal. If the score remains tied after each team has been given one series, the procedure shall be repeated (except there will be no coin toss), until a winner is determined. There will be an intermission of two minutes during which the loser of the original coin toss will be given first choice of the options that includes the option to change goals. First choice of options will alternate for each overtime period. There will be an intermission of five minutes after every third overtime period.

Basketball

In the event of a tie after four quarters of regulation play, the teams will play a (3) three minute overtime. If the game is still tied after the first overtime, two-minute overtimes will then be played.

Softball / Baseball

If the game is tied after 6 innings the game will continue using the "International Tiebreaker Rule". Under this rule, each team starts the inning with the player who completed the last official plate appearance, as a base runner on second base. Each subsequent inning will start the same until a winner has been determined

Soccer

In the tournament there will be an overtime period if necessary to determine a winner. That overtime consists of 2 five minute halves. There will be no halftime between them, but teams will switch directions at the start of the second five minute OT period . At the end of the overtime period if the score is still tied, there will be a shoot out. Only players on the field at the conclusion of the overtime period are eligible to participate in the shootout. Each team selects 5 shooters (report # and order to referee). A coin toss will determine who shoots first. Shots are taken from the 12 yard mark (penalty spot). The team who scores the most goals out of 5 shots wins. If the game is still tied after all 5 shooters have shot, the teams select 5 different shooters for a sudden

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death shootout. The order stays the same. In the sudden death round: A scores and team B does not, team A wins.

Example: Team A shoots and scores

Team B shoots and misses...Team A wins

Team A shoots and misses

Team B shoots and scores...Team B wins

If the game is still tied another round of sudden death shootout will occur and the original 5 shooters are eligible to shoot again. Sudden death rounds continue until a winner is determined.