

PARENT/STUDENT ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

FLETCHER MIDDLE SCHOOL SENATORS

2023-24



DUNCAN U.
FLETCHER
MIDDLE SCHOOL

2000 3rd Street North, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
PH: 904-247-5929

Principal: J. McKenzie
Assistant Principal: M. Galvez
Assistant Principal:
Athletic Director: H. Colado

All extracurricular activities are under the principal's direction and general supervision. The principal has designated a faculty member as the Athletic Director (AD) to assist student-athletes, parents, guardians and family adults. To ensure our student-athlete experience is successful, bring all questions and concerns regarding the Fletcher Middle School (FMS) athletic program initially to the AD.

This handbook is for student-athletes, parents, guardians and family adults to familiarize themselves with the expectations and procedures for participation in FMS athletic, intramural, and athletic clubs.

PHILOSOPHY

Extracurricular Activities are an essential part of the educational experience and an excellent opportunity for the home, school, and community to work together. It provides, students, guided opportunities to develop responsibility, self-reliance, self-esteem, and heightened cultural awareness.

Our **MISSION** is to instill habits for healthier and balanced lives.

Our **PURPOSE** is to provide a wholesome environment of organized activities.

Our **GOAL** is to have students that exhibit leadership, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

Our **VISION** is to be the premier middle school athletic program in North Florida.

INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS & ATHLETIC CLUBS

Interscholastic sports teams and sponsored teams at FMS are open to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, who attend FMS. Middle school students who attend private, charter school or are home school that live in our attendance area may participate on FMS teams with some restrictions.

Participation on a Sports Team, Intramurals and/or Athletic Clubs is not required to academic progress. Since it is a discretionary activity, it can be revoked or denied due to student behavior or academic progress.

Coaches/Sponsors of athletic teams or clubs will select members from those who participated in try-outs. Being selected as a member of an FMS sports team does not guarantee equal playing time.

BOOSTER

The Fletcher Middle School Athletic Boosters Association (FMSABA) is established to recognize, celebrate, and award our student-athlete and coach members of the FMS athletic program. Specifically, Boosters sponsors 8th grade nights for each team, end of the year banquet for student-athletes and coaches.

Each team will need to provide a Booster Liaison (parent/guardian) to coordinate with the Boosters Organization and the other parent/guardians in regards, to concession volunteers, community donors, fund raisers, and 8th grade night. *If you would like to be the Booster Liaison, please let the FMSABA Chair or AD know.*

Please, consider joining the FMS BOOSTER CLUB.

<https://www.localgymsandfitness.com/US/Jacksonville-Beach/102721378810858/Fletcher-Middle-School-Athletic-Booster-Association>

TICKETS

All athletic events will have an admission fee. All tickets to athletic events will be found on GoFan.co; <https://gofan.co/app/school/FL25623>

Attendees at FMS hosted events

Ticket prices: General Admission for Regular season \$5.00
Kids under 10 and adults 65 or over free.

TRANSPORTATION

FMS provides approved DCPS bus transportation to sponsored interscholastic athletic events held at other schools and locations. All student-athletes must return by the same means of transportation unless, returning with a parent/legal guardian. Coaches will only release student-athletes to parent/guardian or parent/guardian designee.

Please, be prompt when picking up your student-athlete from practice, games or school sponsored events. A coach or sponsor cannot release a student-athlete to anyone other than the parent or a designee on the "Parent Transportation Form". Habitual late pick up of student athlete may result in the student-athlete being dropped from the sport or club program. Late pick up is defined as 15 minutes after the designated time.

There is an Activity Bus available Monday through Thursday at 6:15 pm on the 18th Avenue (Gym) side of the school.

Any alternative transportation arrangements must be worked out prior to a competition or event at another location with the team's coach. The parent/guardian must submit a "Parent Transportation" form to the Athletic Director.

ELIGIBILITY of STUDENTS

Students have three years of eligibility from the time they enter 6th Grade, whether they do or do not participate in the athletics during any of those years.

Students that turn 15 years of age on or before July 1 of any year is ineligible. *For example, an 8th grader that turns 15 in June would not be eligible his 8th grade year.*

Student-Athletes must maintain a 2.0 grade point average (GPA) each grading quarter. In addition, a student is not academically eligible with an F in a core class (math, science, social studies or language arts). Academic eligibility takes effect the day report cards are officially released by the school.

The AD will monitor grades weekly and inform the parent and coach of any student that has an "F" in a core class. A student-athlete will have 10 days to improve the grade before sanctions will be applied, Sanctions may include but not limited to loss of game time, practice restriction to attend teacher help session.

Off-season in some instances, students may behave poorly during the off-season. This may result in them being made *ineligible* for upcoming seasons. The AD will make a determination of eligibility.

ATHLETIC FORMS

Athletic Forms must be turned in to the AD before participating in any conditioning, try-outs or practices on a sponsored sports team or athletic club. All forms are found on the Fletcher Middle School home page <https://dcps.duvalschools.org/FMS>, click "Programs" and then "Athletic Programs".

Note, the physical exam form (EL2) must be completed and signed by a board-certified medical professional.

In addition to the these forms a copy of the student-athletes birth certificate and parent insurance card must be included. Insurance can be purchased at School Insurance of Florida if needed https://schoolinsuranceofflorida.com/pages/parent_pages/9049/student-accident-insurance

All Sports forms are valid for one year and only need to be turned in once a year. For example: a student-athlete turns in athletic forms when trying out for a sport in August. They are then eligible to try out for sports offered in the Winter and Spring seasons.

CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

In the event of a head injury, when a concussion is suspected, the following steps must be followed:

1. Athletic Trainer/Coach evaluates the student-athlete, if a concussion is suspected:
2. Athletic Trainer/Coach, parent, and student-athlete meet to discuss next steps

3. Student-athlete and parent visit primary care physician ASAP.
4. Parent monitor symptoms (headache, sensitivity to light/sound, nausea) for the next 12 hours
5. Athletic Trainer /coach completes AT18 Post Head Injury/Concussion Initial Return to Participation forms and return to coach, trainer (if on site) a copy must be forwarded to Athletic Director.

ATTENDANCE

Student-Athletes will, on occasion, miss class due to an athletic event. Remind your student-athlete to complete class assignments on time. Our FMS teachers are very supportive of our student-athletes.

A student must be in attendance half the class periods of the school day, on the day of a scheduled athletic event, to participate. Sponsored educational field trips are counted as being in attendance.

Also, any Student-Athlete that fails to finish a season will be handled on a case-by-case bases by the Athletic Director, regarding, participation on other sports teams.

TRY-OUTS

Try-outs and team selection process will be scheduled and conducted at the Head Coaches' discretion.

Generally, any student allowed to try-out at an alternative time must have approval from the Head Coach.

PRACTICE

All team practices are set by the Head Coach. The head coach will set all expectations of practice attendance. All non-school day practices are optional but attendance is encouraged. There are absolutely no practices on Sunday or on game days. Family members are not allowed on the practice field during practice without the head coaches consent.

UNIFORMS

Student-athlete families will purchase their team uniforms from the Team Store through T5 Sportswear and Promotions. Each Head Coach will have information provided during the parent meeting. The exception is our football uniform.

Note: Football participants will have a \$40 for uniform upkeep each season

STUDENT-ATHLETE CONDUCT

Because of the public nature of any athletic program the expectation for participating students is to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the DCPS code of conduct and reflect the standards and ideals of the FMS school community.

SCHOOL CONDUCT:

The AD will work with the Dean regarding disciplinary consequences that occur during the school day.

LEVEL 1 Infractions referred to the Head Coach, Club Sponsor, Athletic Director or Dean by a teacher, administrator or support personnel will be handled in the following manner;

Step 1 The Head Coach will be asked to address and/or assign consequences within the team structure.

Step 2 The Student-Athlete will be required to completion of NFHS "Sportsmanship" course

<https://nfhslearn.com/courses>

Step 3 The Student-Athlete will be suspended for one game.

Step 4 The Student-Athlete will be dropped from the roster.

LEVEL II Infractions, the student-athlete is excluded from participating in all extracurricular activities from the date of the offense until completion of the disciplinary action assigned by Dean.

LEVEL III Infractions, the student athlete will be immediately dropped from the current roster.

LEVEL IV Infractions, the student athlete will be immediately dropped from the current roster and excluded from all extracurricular athletic activities the rest of the year.

Note: During the Off-Season the AD will address any LEVEL 1 infractions documented or reported, of a rostered student-athlete that is try-out for a team. This may make the student-athlete ineligible for an upcoming season. If a Head Coach wants to add the student-athlete to their roster an Athletic Behavior Contract will need to be signed by parent/guardian of student-athlete and on file with the AD and Dean.

A rostered athlete is a student that has appeared on a team, club or intramural roster during that students' years of eligibility.

VOLUNTEERS & VISITORS

A Volunteer is an adult, approved by the principal or his designee to provide assistance to the Head Coach with such duties as event timing, videoing, clock running, score keeping, chain crew, et cetera.

A Visitors is any person not an employee of DCPS, who enters the premises prearranged due to sporting event (game or practice) or meeting (parent meeting). They shall be considered checked-in via ticket purchase, check-in with coaching staff or visitor pass from main.

1. There are No Volunteer Coaches that is, no person other than approved DCPS Coaches are allowed to instruct, direct, help out, fill in or oversee student-athletes on FMS teams at any practice, competition, conditioning or meeting.
2. All adult volunteers who have or will have any contact with students other than his or her own child(ren) must:
 - a. Complete an online volunteer application.
 - b. Check in day of event with Head Coach or AD prior to volunteer service.
 - c. Volunteers may not be left alone with students. This means that the volunteer is not within auditory or visual contact of coaching staff.¹
 - d. Adult Game Day Volunteers do not have to purchase a ticket to any event they are working but must be cleared by the AD.
2. High School Student Volunteers, with consent from their parent/guardian, may receive community service hours may assist a coach during practice or games with activities similar to adult volunteers. Student volunteers are under the supervision of the coaching staff but may not be left in charge of student-athletes.
3. The school principal has the final authority of volunteer and visitor access and assignment for his/her school.

BLEECHER BASICS

Fletcher Middle School (FMS) parents play an integral part in our athletic program. They are a strong voice of encouragement and support for student-athletes and coaches. We expect all fans and athletes alike, at sporting events to use uplifting, encouraging, and positive words "home" or "away," "ahead" or "behind." Here are a few items to consider.

- *Cheer for the Entire Team, Not Just Your Child* - Applaud everyone's performance during the game. Encourage student-athletes to compete against their own potential don't get caught up in the win/lose record.
- *Let the Coach, Coach* – Refrain from giving instructions to student-athletes during a game. To hear someone they care about deeply, other than the coach, yelling out instructions during a game, causes confusion and may be un-nerving for our student-athletes.
- *Know What is Going On* - Talk to your student-athlete frequently about their experience on the team.

¹ DCPS Policy 9.63 SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS/SCREENING PROCESS

- *No Tolerance* - The use of any alcohol, vape product, tobacco, or drugs, on or near the site of the event is grounds for being asked to leave. Spectators may not be allowed to attend school sponsored events if suspected under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Inappropriate language, racially or gender bias statements on or near the site of the event is grounds for being asked to leave.
- *Be respectful of all players, coaches, fans, and referees/umpires. Report any unacceptable behavior by those present to Athletic Director, Administrator or Security personnel at on site.*

24 HOUR RULE

Sometime during a season something may occur at a game and a parent/guardian may have an issue that they would like addressed. Whether it is labelled as a coaching error, player conduct, playing time, parent conflict or any other of a number of possible situations, do not express the issue right after the game. Please, take a full 24 hours to step back and clear the initial emotional elements.

The following steps should be taken:

1. Write an email to the Head Coach with the AD carbon copied (cc) explaining the issue or concern. The coach will respond in a timely manner with a phone call, text, email or set up a meeting to discuss further.
2. If after that discussion with the Head Coach, the parent/guardian does not feel the issue has been resolved, please request a meeting with the AD; coach & student-athlete may be in attendance. The principal will be made aware of the situation.
3. If after discussion with the AD the parent/guardian feels the issue has not been adequately resolved they may request a meeting with Principal; A.D, coach & student-athlete may be in attendance.

PLAYING TIME

Coaches of a team will assign players in and out of the game based on their judgment of the game situation. A team depends on the knowledge, sound judgment and motivation a coach provides. Playing time and position is up to the discretion of the head coach.

OVERLAPPING & DUAL SPORT PARTICIPATION

In cases where seasons overlap for different sports; the current sport will take precedence over the beginning season sport please, speak with the Head Coach to work out separate try-outs.

With student-athletes that wish to participate in two sports during a season. Both Head Coaches must be amenable to that situation and inform the AD of their agreement.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Head Coach may authorize a social media account for their specific team to be used strictly for information, organization and celebration of our teams. Any disparaging remarks made on a team's social media account site by student-athlete or family adult is grounds for immediate dismissal from the team.

INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS & ATHLETIC CLUBS

Interscholastic sports teams and sponsored teams at FMS are open to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, who attend FMS. Middle school students who attend private, charter school or are home school that live in our attendance area may participate on FMS teams.

Participation on a Sports Team and Athletic Club is a revocable privilege.

Coaches/Sponsors of athletic teams or clubs will select members from those who participated in try-outs. Being selected as a member of an FMS sports team does not guarantee equal playing time.

STUDENT-ATHLETE LEADERSHIP

For those student-athletes that wish to be a part of Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) we have a chapter at Fletcher Middle. It gives our student-athletes an opportunity to develop leadership for the purpose of promoting good sportsmanship at competitions.

INTRAMURALS

Intramural recreational sports drop-in program organized exclusively for 6th, 7th and 8th Fletcher Middle School (FMS) students. Intramural participants are to have a completed EL3 on file with Athletic Director (AD). Intramural activities schedule will be posted on the home FMS homepage. The schedule is subject to change.

Intramural participation can be revoked. please follow these general rules:

1. When a student is not playing, they are to remain in the coach designated area.
2. Students are responsible for their own possessions (bookbags, cell phones, etc.)
3. Players are to behave in a respectful manner and follow school code of conduct.
4. Students are required to wear appropriate clothing and shoes for participation in activities.

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DISCRETION OF THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

The Athletic Director has the discretion to handle situations that arise on a team or at a game not clearly identified in this handbook and/or in the best interest of the student-athlete and/or FMS Athletic Program. There are four basic behaviors that will necessitate attention from the Athletic Director:

1. Non-adherence to guidelines set out in the Parent/Student Handbook.
2. Disrespect directed toward a player, coach, official, fan or volunteer.
3. Noncompliance by a student - athlete in response to reasonable instructions by coach, DCPS teacher, or official.
4. Intentional physical, social, or mental harm directed to a player, coach, official, fan or volunteer.

COACHES CONTACT INFORMATION		
Fall (Aug.- Oct.)		
Football	Bonar	BonarM@duvalschools.org
Volleyball		
Cheer Squad	James	Visionquest247@gmail.com
Dance Squad	Norton	nortonf@duvalschools.org
Intramural Tennis		
Winter (Nov. – Feb.)		
Boys Basketball		
Girls Basketball	Smiley-Belle	smiley11@duvalschools.org
Boys Soccer	Fretz	fretzs@duvalschools.org
Girls Soccer	Garner	garnerd4@duvalschools.org
Intramurals		coladoh@duvalschools.org
Spring (Mar. – May)		
Baseball	Mcgiveron	mcgiveronm@duvalschools.org
Golf	Runquist	RunquistE@duvalschools.org
Softball		
Boys Swimming		
Girls Swimming		
Boys Track		
Girls Track	Meyerowich	MeyerowichH@duvalschools.org
Intramurals		coladoh@duvalschools.org
Athletic Support		
Athletic Director	Colado	coladoh@duvalschools.org
Assistant A.D.		
Booster Club		fletchermiddle schoolboosters@gmail.com
FCA	Stafford	StaffordG@duvalschools.org

FMS BOOSTER CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

Hello Senators!

The **Fletcher Middle School Athletic Booster Association** is a parent/FMS alumni volunteer organization whose mission is to support, promote and recognize students involved in FMS Athletics. We aim to enhance the athletic environment at the school, and provide opportunities that will create a memorable and rewarding middle school experience for all FMS student athletes. We are actively involved in organizing 8th Grade Night for our athletes and their families, as well as supporting school spirit events throughout the year.

The Booster Association relies solely on volunteers, and is funded by membership dues, concession sales and other fundraisers.

Our FMS Membership fees are **only \$5 per athlete** for the 2022-23 school year! You can pay your membership fees in a variety of ways: by going to this website: <https://checkout.square.site/merchant/MLP5CTJHHH1T4/checkout/DRZGACI63OSUOMPQYD NTRIXA> by scanning the QR code below, cash or check. Please make checks payable to: Fletcher Middle School Booster Association and return the form to FMS in C/O Fletcher Middle School Booster Association.

Please complete the form below and return to FMS C/O FMS Booster Association to join.

Membership Listing: _____ (ie: Jane Smith or Smith Family)

ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____

STUDENTS NAME: _____ GRADE: _____ SPORT: _____

STUDENTS NAME: _____ GRADE: _____ SPORT: _____

STUDENTS NAME: _____ GRADE: _____ SPORT: _____

We need you! If you would like to volunteer with the FMS Booster Association, please email us at fletchermiddleschoolboosters@gmail.com

