



2025-2026 Zephyrhills High School Athlete's Handbook

Administration

Amanda McCoy, Principal

Chris Epperson- Asst. Principal for Athletics

Bruce Cimorelli, Athletic Director

Lisa Leboeuf, Bookkeeper

Jason Kiedaisch Plant Manager

School Telephone: 813-794-6100 Website: <http://zhs.pasco.k12.fl.us/>

2025 – 2026 Game Ticket Prices	
Basketball	\$5.00
Baseball	\$5.00
Cross Country	No Charge
Football Varsity Football J.V.	\$7.00 Varsity \$6.00 JV
Golf	No Charge
Soccer	\$5.00
Softball	\$5.00
Swimming	No Charge
Tennis	No Charge
Track	\$5.00
Volleyball	\$5.00
Weightlifting	\$5.00
Wrestling	\$5.00

TO BE ELEGIBLE TO REPRESENT ZEPHYRHILLS HIGH SCHOOL IN ATHLETIC CONTESTS

Prior to the first practice session, all students must have:

1. **Pre-participation Physical Evaluation** – A current physical examination. Physicals are good for one calendar year.
2. **Athletic Participation Form** – A signed and notarized parent permission form for the current year.
3. **Consent and Release of Liability Certificate**
4. The County required participation fee of \$80.00 for the 1st sport (non refundable). A fee of \$50.00 is required for the 2nd sport played, maximum of \$130.00 per individual, \$210.00 per family.
5. A student living out the Zephyrhills High School attendance zone must also have;
 - a. Completed and approved Pasco County School Choice form on file in the registrar's office.
 - b. Completed FHSAA Waiver of the transfer form on file in the Athletic Director's office.
6. The parent(s)/guardian(s) must sign the form verifying that they received and read all the information concerning ZHS policy, procedures, Code of Ethics, Unsportsmanlike Conduct procedures and insurance. This form is mandatory in order for an athlete to participate in the ZHS athletic program and is the last page of this handbook.

Home Education

All forms must be completed and filed prior to the first day of practice.

1. 9.2.2.1.1 Home Education Student Requirements . To participate in interscholastic athletics, a home education student must: (s.1006.15 (3) (c) 1-7, Florida Statutes)
 - a. register as a home education student with the district school superintendent of the county in which he/she resides; and
 - b. Notify the school of his/her intent to participate before the beginning date of the season for the sport in which he/she wants to participate; and
 - c. meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior and performance as the school requires of other participating students; and
 - d. certify to the school at the end of each semester that he/she has the minimum cumulative grade point average required for participation; and
 - e. meet all other FHSAA eligibility requirements; and
 - f. Must be approved by the FHSAA Office each year using a form provided by the Association.

Foreign Exchange Student

All forms must be completed and filed prior to the first day of practice. The amount of paperwork that is required for a foreign exchange student is extensive and will require additional time to complete.

Eligibility and Ineligibility

A period of seven (7) calendar days beyond the last day of the system marking period is provided to determine academic eligibility during the current school year.

1. 9th Graders must be regularly promoted.
2. All athletes after 1st semester as 9th grader must maintain 2.0 for semester eligibility.
3. Any athlete not meeting FHSAA 2.0 CUM is also ineligible for practice. The athlete may, after progress reports, meet with athletic director and show that grades are much improved and should result in eligibility for next semester. The athlete must also take a report sheet around to all teachers with a satisfactory report. You become eligible/ineligible each semester. Decision will be made by Athletic Director.

4. Any student exceeding 5 unexcused (reason for absence unknown) absences, within a calendar month or 10 unexcused (reason for absence unknown) absences within a 90 day calendar period, will lose the privilege of participating in extracurricular activities open only to students. If this occurs during the fourth quarter of the school year, the privilege will be lost for the first quarter of the following school year. Only absences that will be excused are those with a medical or professional note and approval from Principal.

Parent/Student Athletic Code of Ethics

As a member of the Zephyrhills High School Athletic Program, it is the responsibility of the student athlete to abide by all state, district and school regulations that govern interscholastic athletic activities. The Zephyrhills High School Athletic Department shall practice and promote the highest standards of sportsmanship and ethics in all interscholastic activities. The Principal and/or Athletic Director shall have full authority to suspend eligibility of any student for violation of state or school policies. Any spectator that demonstrates unsportsmanlike conduct may be removed from that contest and may lose the privilege of attending future activities at ZHS. Athletic participation is a privilege and the student athlete must follow the rules of Zephyrhills High School, District School Board of Pasco County and FHSAA and must abide by their decisions.

Suspension from School

Pasco County School board policy dictates that any student assigned Out-of-School may not practice or participate in an athletic contest while suspended. This suspension will also apply during any appeal process. Any student athlete assigned ISS are ineligible to practice or play in a game that day. Suspensions involving multiple days will be dealt with on an individual basis and may result in additional game suspensions or dismissal.

Practices

Practices will be scheduled by the coach. It is imperative that all team members be at practice when scheduled and be on time. If you are unable to attend any of these sessions, it is your responsibility to notify your coach the day that you will not be at practice. If you are not in school, phone the school and ask for your coach or leave a message with the school operator. Consequences for missed practices will vary for each sport and will be outlined by the individual coach in his/her team policies.

Commitment

An athlete must understand that playing a sport is very demanding on his time for practice and games. Many of these occur during holidays, on Saturday, etc. The coach and team expect you to be there. An Athlete missing contest during holidays for vacation or for club/travel type teams will be suspended for same number of contest missed. The coach may decide to dismiss student/athlete and will have the support of the athletic director. Parents - Please support our program and your student/athlete. Stay positive. If you have any questions or concerns, please talk to the coach first.

Stealing

Stealing by any of our athletes will not be tolerated and will be grounds for immediate dismissal from team and may affect future athletic participation.

Class Attendance

Students can never make up for class instruction missed when absent from classes. Thus, it is imperative that students be in school whenever physically able. The FHSAA has no policy regarding the number of classes a student must attend on any day to practice or participate in an athletic contest. The ZHS Athletic Department policy states that you must be in all six periods unless there is a prearranged absence approved by the school administration. If an athlete breaks the policy and it is not discovered until a later date, the athlete will be

suspended from the next contest. Coaches may dictate in their policies any additional standards that they feel are necessary.

Sportsmanship

The following guidelines are set forth to assist our administration, parents, students and staff with the monitoring of the Zephyrhills High School Athletic program.

"Unsportsmanlike Conduct" (also see last page of this handbook for more information-signature required)

- 7.1.1 **Sportsmanship Requirement.** Players, coaches, administrators, spectators, contest officials and all other persons connected directly or indirectly with a member school shall practice and promote the highest standards of sportsmanship and ethics before, during and after any interscholastic event.
- 7.1.2 **Principal's Duty.** It shall be the responsibility of each member school principal to exercise control over all individuals to the extent necessary to ensure safety and fair play for all participants and adherence with these standards.
- 7.1.3 **Penalty for Students.** Students who are found to have committed unsportsmanlike conduct will be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletic competition for a penalty period up to one calendar year. **Zephyrhills High School may lengthen the suspension if deemed necessary.**

IF FHSAA GIVES AN ATHLETE A FINE IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THAT INDIVIDUAL TO PAY THE FINE

29.1 Home School. The home school administration is responsible for the control of spectators during an athletic contest. In the event that a spectator or spectators create a distraction, they will be removed from the facility and face possible suspension from future athletic events.

We expect our athletes, parents, and fans to show respect to other teams, officials, and other fans at all times. We will not tolerate, yelling or cursing at officials, other fans, or the other team at both home and away athletic contests. Code of Conduct Expectations

1. Do not use alcohol/alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs at practice, game field or other events. Smoking, vaping, and use of cigarettes on school premises is prohibited.
2. DO NOT ARGUE WITH OR CRITICIZE the players, cheerleaders, coaches, or officials in front of spectators by word of mouth or gesture, but reserve constructive criticism for private meetings with the person who is the object of the constructive criticism.
3. Do not argue with or criticize the game officials, the opposing team, the opposing coaches or fans, by word of mouth or gesture.
4. Do not use abusive or profane language before any person during any athletic contests or activities.
5. Do not physically or verbally abuse anyone in the athletic program.
6. Do not incite unsportsmanlike conduct, to include melee or unrest at an event.
7. Do not seek to undermine school officials through word of mouth or deed.
8. Do set an example by your personal conduct at all times in front of all persons connected with the school programs.
9. Do remember that winning at all costs is not a message we wish to implant to our youth. Instead, we want them to have fun, to play safe, and to encourage sportsmanship.
10. Parents/Guardians: By not agreeing to and signing this code of conduct contract, you have elected not to participate with your child/children in the school athletic programs.

The violation of any of these rules relating to the Code Of Conduct will subject the violating individual to any one of the following penalties.

PENALTIES

1. Adults- Removal from attendance at athletic events for the remainder of the school year and potential for trespass from school/district campus.
2. Students- The participating student who is in violation of rule or rules contained in this Code Of Conduct may be suspended from the team for any number of game or games, may be placed on probation, may have school consequences assigned, and may face penalties from the FHSAA.

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

PARENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Uniforms and Other Issued Equipment

Students are responsible for the proper care of all equipment issued to them. It is their responsibility to properly care for these items and return them at the end of the season in proper condition. Any of these items not returned must be paid for at the current replacement price (It is standard manufacturer's policy that, when replacing fewer than six uniforms, the cost of each equates to roughly 200% of original cost). Any awards, letters or honors will also be withheld until the student has cleared all debts or uniform responsibilities.

WHEN WASHING UNIFORMS. AT NO TIME SHOULD BLEACH BE USED!

Travel

In most cases, travel to and from athletic contests will be provided on buses. There will, however, be times that private vehicles will be used for this purpose. In either case, athletes will be expected to travel to and from these events with the team. If parents wish to bring their child home instead, permission to do so must be obtained from the coach and this permission will be at his/her discretion. At no time will athletes be permitted to return with anyone other than their parents. The parent will be required to sign his or her name in front of the coach saying they are driving their daughter or son home from the game.

NCAA Requirements for Scholarship Athletes

The NCAA has requirements for Athletic Scholarships and should be of interest to all parents. It is suggested that you familiarize yourself with these requirements and keep them in mind throughout your high school days, especially when scheduling classes from year to year. The guidance department has a complete copy of these and is more than pleased to help the students with any questions regarding this matter. These requirements are strictly adhered to by all NCAA member schools.

Banquets and Award Ceremonies

Coaches for the college must call the Guidance Department and confirm the scholarship. Athletes that receive an athletic scholarship will be recognized by the school with an announcing at 2:15 in the Conference Room.

Letters and Awards

The following are athletic Department policies outlining what must be done to earn a letter in varsity or junior varsity sports at Zephyrhills High School. Coaches have been instructed to set standards for their individual sport that must be met in order to earn a letter. These standards have been established to make this letter more meaningful.

1. A student must be academically eligible and in good standing at the end of the season to be considered for any award(s).
2. Each head coach will establish set standards for their sport that each athlete must meet to earn a letter. A copy of these approved standards must be given to each athlete at the beginning of the season to be read by them and their parents.
3. Students meeting the established criteria for a letter will receive the following:
 - a. First time lettering (Varsity) "Z"

- b. First time lettering in that sport: Pin
- c. Second time or after in that sport: Bar

Drug-Free Environment for Students

The manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of controlled substances; including alcohol, is prohibited on District School Board property or at any sanctioned activity. This offense is a Level III violation of the Student Code of Conduct and may result in the expulsion of the student from Zephyrhills High School.

The ZHS Athletic Department policy regarding controlled substances is:

1. First offence – 18 week suspension and mandatory completion of counseling program *18 week suspension is only counted through the regular school year; summer does not count as part of the 18 weeks.
2. Second offence – Athlete is dismissed from the athletic program for one calendar year.

FHSAA Policy on Tobacco Products

If a student is found to be in possession or to have used tobacco products on school board property – student will be subject to District School Board or Pasco County guidelines and will be suspended from a minimum of one athletic contest.

Use of Profanity

The use of profanity, obscene gestures, or abusive language is a Level III (serious breach of conduct) offense of the Student Code of Conduct. At anytime a student shows disrespect toward school officials, contestants, spectators, game officials, teammates or their coaches, the student will be suspended from a minimum of one contest.

Student Athlete or Student Involved In Extra-Curricular Activities Being Arrested and Charged

If a student has been arrested on or off campus and charged with a misdemeanor other than a minor traffic violation as defined in F.S. 775.08 or a crime that would be a felony, if that student was an adult, then that student may receive a four week suspension from practice and competition the first day the school administration becomes aware of said violation(s). After the suspension expires, the coach and administration will make a decision as to whether that student remains eligible or extend the suspension up to four additional weeks based on supportable information obtained from the police or the state attorney's office. The suspension will be immediately lifted should the charges be dropped.

If the student is adjudicated guilty of a misdemeanor (F.S. 775.08), the student will be ineligible for a period of four weeks from the date of conviction. The four weeks must be part of the regular school year and will not include summer school.

If the student enters a plea of "no contest" and adjudication is withheld, then the student will be ineligible for a period of four school weeks from the date the plea is entered into the court records.

If the student is found to be "not guilty", the student may resume eligibility from the date the charges are dropped or that the "not guilty" is entered into court records.

If the student is adjudicated guilty of a crime that would be a felony, if that student was an adult, then that student will be ineligible for a period of no less than eighteen school weeks from the date of conviction.

If the student enters a plea of "no contest" to the felony charge, the student will be ineligible for a period of no less than eighteen school weeks from the date the plea is entered into court records.

If the student is found "not guilty" to the felony charge, the student may resume eligibility from the date the charges are dropped or a "not guilty" is entered into court records

Student Arrested and Charged with a Misdemeanor

The ZHS Athletic Department policy regarding a student charged with a misdemeanor; student eligibility will be suspended pending adjudication.

If the student is found guilty of misdemeanor; student will be ineligible from a period of 4 weeks from the date of conviction.

If the student enters a plea of no-contest; student will be ineligible for a period of 2 weeks from the date the plea is entered into court records.

If the student is found guilty; student may resume eligibility from the date charges are dropped or that not-guilty is entered into court records.

Off Season Guidelines

The ZHS Athletic Department policy regarding off-season programs is:

1. Off-season program during the regular school year will consist of weightlifting and conditioning only
2. Summer programs will be limited to those, agencies recognized by the FHSAA or approved by the school administration
3. FHSAA - Policy on summer participation will be strictly enforced

Insurance and Accidental Injuries

The Pasco County School Board will provide excess student athletic insurance coverage. The plan provides limited excess coverage for medical expenses that arise from the treatment of accidental injuries incurred while a student participates in interscholastic sports. The school insurance plan is a secondary coverage and all accidental athletic injuries must go through your primary carrier first.

This plan is not a guarantee of payment for medical services. You may encounter certain out-of-pocket expenses when your son or daughter is treated for accidental injuries.

******Important******

All injuries must be reported to the coach before leaving practices or games. Do not wait until the following day to report your injury. **Before seeing any doctors for treatment**, the student will need to see the Athletic Director for the necessary school insurance claim form(s).

Parents your insurance is primary. If you have an HMO or PPO insurance plan it is absolutely imperative that you follow the procedures as prescribed by your insurance plan should your son or daughter need medical treatment. In general, this will mean that you will have to take your child to your primary physician for

treatment. If this is not done, your insurance will not cover any of the costs incurred and the medical benefits otherwise payable under the Board provided excess student athletic insurance policy shall be reduced by 50%.

For parents who do not have primary insurance, we encourage the use of the preferred providers. These medical providers have shown an interest in charging for services in accordance with policy limits in an effort to minimize your out-of-pocket expenses. This Zephyrhills High School Handbook does not cover all situations that may occur in our Athletic Program; however, we have tried to include as many as possible in writing so the athletes and parents understand our expectations. We will strive to do all we can to make sure our student/athletes represent this school and community with dignity and integrity.

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, as well as a right. Any student/athlete who violates a team rule or commits a serious breach of the student code of conduct may be dismissed from the team immediately.

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The final decision rests with the Coach/Athletic Director and Principal.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Student-Athletes: Respect for the game in which the student-athlete participates also demands respect for the opponent. Student-athletes at Zephyrhills High School are expected to treat opponents with sportsmanship. There can be no tolerance for taunting and baiting of opponents.

ZHS student-athletes must understand that they are perhaps the most visible representatives of our high school. Also, their behavior is observed and emulated by many who are younger.

ZHS student-athletes must honor the responsibilities that accompany the privilege of representing our schools by behaving with dignity and class on and off the field.

Below is the definition of "Unsportsmanlike Conduct" as listed in the FHSAA Handbook.

7.2 UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

7.2.1 "Unsportsmanlike Conduct" Defined. A student who commits an act of malicious and hateful nature toward a contest official, an opponent or any other person attending an athletic contest shall be guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct. Such acts may include, but are not limited to, profanity, striking or threatening a contest official; physical contact with an opponent which is beyond the normal scope of competition; spitting on a contest official or opponent; directing gender, racial or ethnic slurs toward a contest official, an opponent or any other person attending an athletic contest; or other such acts deemed to be unacceptable conduct according to the principal of the member school the student attends or this Association.

Any athlete fined by the FHSAA, for unsportsmanlike conduct, will be required to pay the fine. The Athlete will not be permitted to participate in any athlete practice or event until the fine is paid.

All involved with ZHS athletic program fully understand that the student/athlete will be expected to follow ZHS guidelines and display the utmost respect for teachers, coaches, administration, officials and opponents. Athletes that violate these standards will lose the privilege of representing ZHS athletic program.

This form is mandatory in order to participate in the ZHS Athletic Program. By signing this form you are confirming that you have received information concerning ZHS policy, procedures and insurance.

Date

Student Name (Print)

Student ID #

Student Signature

Parent Name (Print)

Parent Signature