

# Niangua R-V Schools

2022-2023

Athletic Handbook



# Niangua R-V School District Athletic Handbook Student Policies

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## **Purpose**

The purpose of the Niangua R-V School District Athletic Handbook is to establish uniform procedures in the administration of athletic programs. Although individual coaches are allowed freedom in techniques and methods of coaching, the regulations set forth in this handbook must be followed by all coaches to facilitate a strong and consistent athletic program.

All coaches are expected to familiarize themselves with the contents of this handbook. Any changes to this handbook will be approved by district administration and the Niangua R-V School Board. It shall be distributed to all coaches prior to the school year. At the end of each school year, this handbook will be reviewed and updated by Niangua R-V Administrators, Teachers, Coaches, Student Athletes, and parents.

## **Expectations (for everyone involved in Niangua Athletics)**

We will keep our priorities in order:

1. God
2. Family
3. Academics
4. Athletics
5. Everything Else

We will do it hard, do it right, or do it again.

We will put the team first.

We will do our best in everything we do.

We will be good role models.

We will treat everyone with respect.

We will not be negatively influenced by peer pressure.

We will never compromise what is right.

We will help each other get better.

We will have the courage and conviction to stand up for what is right.

## **Philosophy**

It is the goal of the Niangua R-V Athletic Department that student athletes, coaches, administrators, parents, and fans agree and value the following:

- Athletics as an integral part of the total educational process
- The pursuit of excellence
- Competitive teams
- Model and Teach Good Sportsmanship
- Physical and Mental Fitness
- Encourage student participation as athletes and fans
- Encourage multi-sport participation in school sponsored sport teams
- Encourage teamwork
- Encourage the development of leadership, values, responsibility, commitment, self-discipline, self-motivation, goal setting, decision making under pressure, and dealing with adversity and success.

## **Objectives**

1. Each student who expresses interest in a sport and meets high school and team eligibility requirements will be allowed the opportunity to try out regardless of size or ability.
2. Each team member will experience some actual game competition during the season.
3. All team members will experience learning opportunities in self-discipline, emotional control and sportsmanship.
4. Every opportunity will be used to train the team members to be ladies and gentlemen, on and off the field/court. Coaches are a major influence toward the appearance and behavior suitable to ladies and gentlemen.
5. All team members will be motivated and trained to succeed so that worthwhile experiences result in appropriate human relationships.

### **Athletic/Activities Staff**

Superintendent	Josh Hume
JH/HS Principal	Clint Gazette
Athletic Director	Clint Gazette
Band & Choir	Aaron Thomas
Baseball – Spring	Aaron Crosby
Basketball – Boys JH & HS	Kalem Copling
Basketball – Girls JH	Kodey Weaver
Basketball – Girls HS	Clint Gazette
Cheerleading – JH & HS	Angelia Kochs
Cross Country – JH & HS	Clint Gazette
Softball	Clint Gazette
Speech and Debate	Shanda Cullen
Volleyball – JH & HS	Lori Allen/Alisha Stradling
Quiz Bowl	???

### **Conference Affiliation**

Niangua School District is a cooperating member of the Mark Twain Conference; and as a member is committed to adhere to the rules and regulations of the association. Presently there are seven member schools: Bradleyville, Chadwick, Everton, Hurley, New Covenant Academy, Niangua and School of the Ozarks.

**MISSOURI STATE HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION  
ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES**

**ATHLETE To be eligible for your school team you must...**

- BE A GOOD CITIZEN IN YOUR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY.
  - Any student who represents their school in interscholastic activities must be a credible citizen and judged so by the proper school authority certifying the list of students for competition. A student whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon themselves or their school is not considered a credible citizen. Their conduct shall be satisfactory in accordance with the standards of good discipline.
  - Those students whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon themselves or their schools are not considered “credible citizens”.
  - A student who misses class on the date of a contest without being excused by the principal shall not be considered eligible on that contest date.
  - Each individual school has the authority to judge its’ students under those standards.
  
- Have entered school within the first eleven days of the current semester. Entering school is interpreted as enrolling and attending classes.
  
- Not have received or competed for any award of any kind other than that given by your school for your services as an athlete in the sport in which you are competing. Competing for awards having a utilitarian value such as jackets, cash or merchandise prizes will make you ineligible.
  
- Not have reached your 19<sup>th</sup> birthday prior to July 1 of current school year.  
Junior high students shall not have reached the following ages prior to July 1: 6th Grade 13; 7th Grade 14; 8th Grade-15
  
- Not have competed under an assumed or false name.
  
- Not have transferred schools without a corresponding change of residence of your parents unless you meet an appropriate exception of the transfer standards.  
Always check with your Principal or Athletic Director before transferring.
  
- Not have graduated or received an early release from a four-year high school or its’ equivalent.

- Attend your eighth semester immediately following your seventh semester. High school students are eligible only during the first 8 semesters or attendance.
- Not compete on an outside team or in individual match competition during the season you are representing your school in the same sport, nor practice or play for a non-school team on the same day you have practice or play for a school team in any sport. These restrictions begin with the first day of the current school sports season. A school sports season is defined as beginning with the date of the first practice held on a school day and ends with the last contest including district and state tournament contests.
- Not transfer from one school to another because of undue influence.

REMEMBER: All of the member schools of the Missouri State High School Activities Association have adopted these eligibility guidelines. Eligibility to participate in School Athletics is a privilege granted if you meet these standards. It is not an inherent right. These eligibility guidelines must be met by girls as well as boys who compete inter scholastically. Your school has the authority to adopt additional rules and guidelines.

## Attendance Requirement

In the preceding semester you must have earned 3 units of credit or 80% of the maximum allowable credits which may be earned whichever is greater. You must be currently enrolled in courses that offer 3 credits or 80% of the maximum allowable credits. For a student to remain eligible they must pass 6 of 7 credit classes each semester previous to participation.

Grades 9-12 Enrollment Options for Academic Eligibility: The following options are available to students in order to meet the Bona-Fide Student requirement:

- Traditional Option: A student may meet the requirements through being enrolled and attending classes full-time at the high school.
- Non-Traditional Option 1 - Transcribed Credits: A student may meet the requirements through meeting ALL of the following:
  1. The student is an enrolled student of the high school, but all or some of the courses/credits are not taken at the local high school (virtual, post-secondary, work study, etc.),
  2. All credits attempted/earned are placed on the high school transcript,
  3. All classes must be completed by the high school's close of the semester in order for those classes/credits to be considered toward activity eligibility.
- Non-Traditional Option 2 – Seat-Time + Non-Transcribed Credits: A student may meet the requirements through meeting ALL of the following:
  1. The student is an enrolled student of the public high school of residence and is taking a minimum of two credit-bearing, seat-time classes for a minimum of 1.0 units of credit at the high school, and
  2. The high school administration confirms after a full academic review that the student is further enrolled in courses taken outside of the school which bring the student up to the academic credit requirements.
  3. All classes/assignments must be completed by the high school's close of the semester in order for those classes/credits to be considered toward activity eligibility.
- Any student whose enrollment status changes from being a non-bona fide student to being a bona fide student would be considered a transfer student and ineligible to represent a member school until a transfer of eligibility form is filed and an eligibility ruling is rendered.



## NIANGUA ATHLETIC POLICY

Every athlete and their parents or guardians will be responsible for reading the following Athletic Policy and are required to sign the copy at the end of this document to indicate that they have read and will comply with the policies set forth. Athletes will be required to abide by the rules and regulations established by the Missouri State High School Activities Association and Niangua Schools. This signed policy must be returned and will remain in effect for one full calendar year. (A full calendar year includes the regular school year, summer breaks, all school year breaks and all holidays).

### RULES AND REGULATIONS

Athletes will be required to abide by the rules and regulations stated in the policy as well as other training rules specified by the coach of any particular sports activity in which they are participating.

- Students are free to make their own choice as to sports in which they wish to try out.
- The selection of athletes for a team is the job of the head coach. During preseason practice sessions, skills will be evaluated along with many other aspects of what is required of the athlete in that sport. Each coach will have requirements for their teams and these requirements will be made known to each person trying out. The coach will determine who and how many will be members of a team. **The decision of the coach will be final!**
- An athlete quitting a sport activity may not participate in a new sports activity until the athlete has received an athletic release from the head coach of the sport they are quitting and the head coach of the new sport accepts the athlete.
- Participation in more than one sport within a season is left to the mutual agreement of the athlete and the head coaches from each sport the athlete wishes to participate in.
- Violation of Law: If an athlete violates a criminal law, they will not be allowed to represent a Niangua Athletic Team until the School Board has reinstated their eligibility. An arrest is not evidence of a violation of law, therefore, if an athlete is arrested for a misdemeanor (shoplifting, vandalism, etc...) or a felony (assault, robbery, DWI possession, etc...) the athlete will not be allowed to represent the school in any interscholastic activity pending the legal outcome of the case. However, if there is admission of guilt by the athlete, or if after reviewing the case, school officials feel there is strong evidence (witness) which indicated

probable guilt, then the Principal or Athletic Director may restrict the athlete from participation before the legal outcome of the case is decided.

- If it is necessary to be absent from practice, the athlete is expected to obtain permission from the head coach prior to the scheduled practice. If the athlete is ill, the coach should be notified by the parents.
  
- If a student misses class(es) without being excused by the principal, the student shall not be considered eligible on that date. Further, the student cannot be certified eligible to participate on any subsequent date until the student attends a full day of classes.
  - \* Students must be here 6 of 7 classes.
  - \* Friday attendance will be used for participation in weekend and Monday contests.
  
- Students with attendance percentages below 93% will not be allowed to participate in any extracurricular or co-curricular events sponsored by the school. These activities include band, choir, speech & drama, conference academic competitions, athletic contests, etc. This also includes serving as managers and spectators at any school sponsored events. The superintendent or principal will be able to show discretion concerning medical or emergency situations in regards to changes in this policy.
  
- In the event that truancy or suspension by an athlete occurs, the athlete will not be eligible for competition until they have fulfilled the disciplinary requirements established by the Administration.
  
- In the event that an athlete is assigned an after school detention as the result of a classroom problem, they will not be allowed to use the excuse of “I have practice, so I can’t stay.” THE CLASSROOM OBLIGATION ALWAYS COMES FIRST.
  
- In the event that an athlete is assigned an after school detention as the result of a disciplinary issue, the athlete will not be eligible for competition until they have fulfilled the disciplinary requirements established by the Administration and Coaches.

- Athletes are responsible for returning all equipment issued to them during their sports season. The athlete will be financially responsible for any lost equipment. All financial obligations of the athlete must be taken care of within one week after the end of the sports season. No athlete will receive an athletic award until all equipment is returned and all financial obligations have been paid. No further equipment will be issued until all equipment from any other sport is returned.
- Unsportsmanlike Acts: Unsportsmanlike acts during a contest resulting in ejection of an athlete shall, in most cases, result in the athlete being restricted from representing the school for at least the next contest. An athlete who commits such an act, but is not ejected may also be subject to at least a one game suspension. Each case of this type shall be reviewed by the head coach, the athletic director, and the principal, before a final decision is made.
- Due Process: Athletes shall have the opportunity to express their side of any incident in which they may be involved. If the athlete is dissatisfied with any decision, they have the right to appeal through the following channels:
  - Head Coach (An administrator may be present.)
  - Athletic Director
  - Building Principal
  - Superintendent
  - Board of Education

Appeals to the Superintendent or to the Board of Education are to be made in the form of a written request and submitted within 10 days of the previous decision. The body to which the appeal is made shall, within 10 days of receipt of the appeal, establish a hearing date.

- All athletes will be transported to and from respective games, meets, etc., via school transportation. Parents/guardians may transport their own child/athlete home from any school after activity after signing your child out with a coach/sponsor. An athlete being transported home by another parent other than their own must have their parent's written permission. The written permission must be signed by the building Principal or Athletic Director. Signed, written permission documentation must be given to the head coach before the athlete will be allowed to leave with anyone other than their own parent/guardian. Administration on duty may grant approval to ride home with another parent if

verified by the parent per phone conversation and signature of parent providing the transportation. If a student does not check out properly, coaches have the right to suspend the athlete for the next game/contest.

- Before a student may participate in any athletic activity for Niangua Schools, they must have the following forms on file with the Athletic Office: (1) Physical Exam form, (2) an Insurance Information form, (3) Emergency contact information, and (4) a signed copy of the Niangua Athletic Policy. A student is NOT PERMITTED to practice or compete until all documentation is on file with the Athletic Director.
- It is the responsibility of athletes representing Niangua Schools to be good citizens at all times. Anything less is unacceptable!

- **Awards Requirements**

- A student may receive the following symbolic awards: unattached school letters or emblems, medals, ribbons, trophies, certificates. Etc.
  - A student SHALL NOT accept or compete for services, cash, or gift certificates.
  - A student may receive an award of merchandise items which together DO NOT EXCEED a total value of \$250. The total value of all items shall be calculated using the manufacturer's suggested retail price for each item.
  - A student may receive an award of commemorative jewelry of a value greater than the merchandise award limit if purchased and awarded by the school.
- Students who transfer schools or do not meet the requirements of residency upon enrollment at the school as outlined in MSHSAA Handbook are ineligible for 365 days.
  - Parental and Spectator Expectations:  
Your enthusiasm as a spectator includes a vital responsibility for good sportsmanship. Your habits and reactions determine the quality of sportsmanship, which reflects upon our school and our community. Parents are expected to:
    - Know and demonstrate the fundamentals of good sportsmanship.
    - Respect, cooperate and respond to cheerleaders.
    - Respect school property and authority.

- Show respect for opponents and opposing coaches and
- Show respect for players who are injured.
- Respect the judgement and strategy of the coach (even if you disagree)
- Respect the judgement of game officials (even if you disagree).  
Avoid profane language and obnoxious behavior at all times.
- Avoid applauding errors or penalties of the opponents.
- Refrain from heckling, jeering or distracting opponents, including distracting behavior during the shooting of free throws.
- Refrain from being critical of players, coaches or officials for a loss. Refrain from throwing objects on the playing area or in the bleachers.
- Avoid stomping of bleachers or the use of artificial noisemakers.
- Refrain from using cheers that taunt or ridicule opposing players, coaches, cheerleaders or spectators.
- Refrain from booing or showing displeasure with game officials or game activities.

The MSHSAA policies and procedures that are listed above will be followed by all participants within the Niangua R-V School District. More policies and procedures can be found on the MSHSAA website as well as the Niangua R-V School District website.

## **ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

Student athletes must carry a C- average or better, with no more than 1 D and no F's in the classes enrolled each two week grading period. If the recorded grades at the end of each two weeks includes more than 1 D or any F's, the student athlete will have a one week to improve their grades. If, after that one-week, the student athlete has not raised the grade to a passing percentage, then the student athlete will be ineligible to participate until the next progress report is printed. Grades will be checked every 2 weeks. The suspension will begin on the Monday following the progress report and will end once the building administrators and coaches receive grades from the counselors after the 1 week period.

Typically a student is enrolled in 7 graded classes and must pass 6 each semester to maintain eligibility. If a student opts to take only 6 graded classes because of Senior Release or teacher aid, they must still pass all 6 of the remaining graded classes.

A student who is dually enrolled in college and high school courses but does not receive high school credit on his/her high school transcript for the college work, may have college hours earned during a regular semester count up to a maximum of 1 unit of credit toward determining high school eligibility as follows:

- ½ unit of high school credit for 2 or 3 credit classes.
- 1 unit of high school credit for a 4 or 5 hour college class.

Students that are academically ineligible are ONLY excluded from participating in games or performances. An academically ineligible student, with coach's or sponsor's permission, will still be allowed to attend and participate in practices. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of their grades at all times.

A student must be making satisfactory progress toward graduation as determined by local school policies.

A student who was academically ineligible the preceding semester but meets the academic standard at the close of the semester becomes eligible the fifth day classes are attended in the succeeding semester.

Summer school classes are NOT counted by the Niangua R-V Schools toward academic eligibility for participation in MSHSAA sponsored activities.

## **HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS AWARD REQUIREMENTS**

Participation Certificate: A certificate will be presented to High School athletes who have participated in at least half of the junior varsity games or shared time between junior varsity and varsity games to equal half of the games. All Junior High athletes will receive the Participation Certificate Award.

Sports Letters: In recognition of participation and goal achievement, Senior High (9-12) letters will be awarded when earned under the following conditions:

1. To receive a high school letter a student must represent the school in varsity competition.
  - a. Volleyball--have played in half of the games played.
  - b. Basketball--have played in half of the "halves" played.
  - c. Baseball--have played in half of the games played.
  - d. Softball--have played in half of the games played.
  - e. Cheerleading--have cheered at half of the games played.
  - f. Cross-country--run in at least half of the meets, placing in the first five (from Niangua) at least two times.
  - g. Track – participate in at least half of the meets, placing in the first five (from Niangua) at least two times.
2. Students who quit an activity of their own accord, or are dismissed by the coach or administration for disciplinary action, academic eligibility, or suspended for drugs or alcohol are not eligible.
3. Any student injured playing in a school sport may be awarded a letter, providing he/she meets all other requirements for the team, which will be determined by the coaches. A letter may not always be rewarded to every injured player.
4. Students, who have already received a letter, will then receive bars to denote the number of times they letter in a sport. Activity emblems will be given by the school to represent the sport in which they have lettered.
5. A student may purchase and wear any patch or number of letters they have earned.
6. Must have minimal instances of discipline code violations other than tardies and no major discipline infractions.

Athletic Honor Awards: Athletes can earn individual athletic and academic all conference honors.

- Year-End Medals: Coaches will hand out medals based on individual statistics throughout the season. A Coach may hand out a MVP award based on a team vote.
- All Conference and All District Selection: The Conference and District Team selections are based on a vote of all coaches involved in the specific conference sport or district sport. Each school is unable to vote for their own athletes but can provide nominations of players based on player statistics during the season.
- Academic All-State Awards: Student-athletes earning a 3.50 or higher GPA and who are members of an All District Team are eligible for Academic All State nomination. Each sport or activity has a State Committee that votes on the nominations and notifies the appropriate coach.

The school will issue an athletic letter and all awards at the end of the year Athletic Banquet to students who meet requirements.



## ALCOHOL AND NON-PRESCRIPTION DRUG POLICY

This policy is effective beginning at the Middle School level and carries over from year to year.

Participation in student activities and athletics is a privilege, not a right. Therefore, we believe that students must adhere to standards of behavior, which will bring credit to the individual student, the particular activity, the school, and the community. The use of alcohol, **drugs and**/or non prescription drugs (any substance which is unlawful for possession, distribution or use) is prohibited and will not be tolerated.

It is therefore the intention of this policy that the student not use, sell, purchase or possess alcohol, **drugs** or non-prescription drugs. It is further the intention of this policy that students not knowingly choose to remain in any circumstance in which the student is in the presence of other minors who are in the possession of alcohol, **drugs** or non-prescription drugs. If a student is in the presence of other minors, and it is known by the student that alcohol, **drugs** or non-prescription drugs are present, the student must take some reasonable action to remove themselves from the circumstance. This is the case whether the minor is on campus or off campus. This provision does not include public events or events in which adults are participating in lawful activities. Further, all that is required of the student is a reasonable effort to remove themselves from the circumstance.

A violation of this policy will result in progressive discipline as set forth below. A determination of whether a violation of the alcohol, **drugs** and non-prescription drug policy has occurred will be made upon the district's receiving information, which the district, at its' discretion, determines sufficient to establish a violation of the above policy on alcohol, **drugs** and nonprescription drugs. Once the district, at its' discretion, determines there has been a violation, the district may implement the below progressive discipline, or if it deems the violation sufficiently serious, the student may be barred from athletics indefinitely. Should the district choose progressive discipline is appropriate; the discipline will be as follows:

First Violation:The student will be suspended immediately for **28 consecutive days and** a minimum of one contest in each sport/Activity in which they are a participant for a period of one year from the date of finding of a violation, regardless of overlap in school years.

Second Violation:The student will be suspended immediately for **90 consecutive days and** a minimum of five contests in each sport/activity in which they are a participant for a period of one year from the date of finding of a violation, regardless of overlap in school years.

Third Violation:The student will be suspended from participation in all sports/activities for the remainder of their school career.

The Niangua R-V School District takes seriously its policy on alcohol, drugs and non-prescription drugs. It is for the health and welfare of all students that this policy is implemented.

NIANGUA SCHOOLS  
ATHLETIC POLICY  
2022-2023

This application to represent my school in interscholastic athletics is entirely voluntary on my part and is made with the understanding that I have studied the eligibility standards that I must meet to represent my school and that I have not violated any of them.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ have read and understand all rules and policies set forth in the pages of this handbook, and agree to abide by said rules and regulations.

Signature of Athlete \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I, as a parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, have read the rules and policies set forth for athletic participation at Niangua Schools, and give my son/daughter permission to participate under these conditions. I will do my part in seeing that he/she follows and abides by these rules and policies.

Signature of Parent \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_