

**ATHLETIC POLICIES FOR THE STUDENT ATHLETE
FORT BEND ISD**

Participation in the athletic program and/or University Interscholastic League contests is not a right but a **PRIVILEGE**. No student is required to take part in the contest or activities. Therefore, it is imperative that all students taking part in the program understand the rules and policies set forth in the FBISD extracurricular handbook and the athletic code. The coaches of the sport or activities and the Athletic Director shall have every right to remove this privilege.

ON THE FIELD OR COURT

The athlete must never use profanity or resort to illegal tactics. They must learn that both winning and losing are part of the game and that you have to be a good loser as well as a gracious winner. Inappropriate conduct will not be tolerated. Total respect to officials is an absolute must. The coach will handle discussions of calls made by officials. Any behavior, or any other act, which is not conducive to good sportsmanship, may result in removal from the contest and possible expulsion from the team.

ATHLETIC GROOMING CODE

Participation in competitive athletics is completely voluntary on the part of all students. To participate in athletics in Fort Bend Independent School District, there are certain standards which must be maintained, one of which is acceptable grooming. Specific standards are necessary for the following reasons:

1. **SAFETY:** It is almost impossible to get a safe fit in football helmets if the hair is exceptionally long. Wearing jewelry is not allowed, as it may be dangerous to the participants, their teammate and opponents. In many sports this is a violation punishable by disqualification.
2. **HEALTH and HYGIENE:** Facial cuts or lacerations are more susceptible to infection and first-aid is more difficult to administer when facial hair is present.
3. **UNIFORMITY:** Athletes will often travel to other towns, communities, schools, restaurants, etc., as representatives of the Fort Bend Independent School District; therefore, they should be groomed in a manner that shows pride for our community, school, and sponsors. Every piece of equipment worn by the athlete should be identical to his team members with the exception of shoes. Shoes must be the same color if different.
4. **SELF-DISCIPLINE:** One of the rewards of being an athlete is learning discipline. There is no better way to acquire self-discipline than to make sacrifices. Giving up fads of dress and appearance is a very small sacrifice. Ear and nose rings are prohibited anytime an athlete is in a FBISD facility or wearing attire that represents their school and team. This applies at all times during the school year.

NOTE: Violations of the above standards of grooming may result in suspension and possible expulsion from the team.

CONDUCT

1. SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL

If an athlete is suspended from school for any reason, they will be ineligible during the period of suspension. A second suspension in the same school year may result in the total expulsion from athletics for the remainder of the school year. This also includes on campus suspensions.

2. DISRESPECT TO TEACHER OR COACH

Any act of disrespect by an athlete to his teacher, coach, or member of school administration will be handled on an individual basis. Punishment may call for expulsion from all athletic activities for a calendar year from the date of the incident. His/her return would be determined by their conduct during the period of expulsion.

3. CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Athletes who are habitual problems in the classroom and receive repeated poor conduct grades may be suspended from a team on a temporary basis or permanently if the problem continues.

ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS OF IMPORTANCE

1. SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

The athlete is financially responsible for all equipment checked out to him/her. Wearing or using this equipment for personal use will not be allowed. Equipment must not be abused. It must be returned clean and in good condition.

2. QUITTING/REMOVAL FROM TEAM.

Athletes quitting or removed from a team will:

Forfeit their award for the sport.

Not be allowed to participate in another sport until the season of the sport quit or removed from is completed.

Athletes quitting off-season program of one sport may not enter same type of program for another sport.

3. PRACTICE REGULATION

A coach must be consulted ahead of time if any athlete must miss a practice or game. Missing a game or practice without permission may result in suspension from the team.

Athletes must obey all rules set up by the coach.

Profanity will not be tolerated.

Poor effort will not be tolerated.

TRAVEL

All athletes in middle and senior high schools represent the community, school, and coaches. Therefore, it is expected that all will dress in an acceptable manner on trips and conduct themselves in a manner in keeping with the athletic codes. Violations may result in suspension and possible expulsion from the team or program.

1. Athletes must be on time for all trips or be left at school.

2. Athletes must dress neatly as directed by coach.

3. Athletes are expected to be mannerly in restaurants and other public places.

4. Each athlete is responsible to return his equipment to the proper keeping place at school.

5. All athletes making the trip on the bus will return on the bus unless in an emergency type situation or when parents are present and there is good reason for returning with parents. The proper form must be filled out by the student and signed by his or her parents prior to the trip if they are to return with their parents.

6. Athletes are never to return with anyone other than on the bus or their own parents.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RULES

Parent or Guardian's Permit

I hereby give my consent for the above student to compete in University Interscholastic League approved sports, and travel with the coach or other representative of the school on any trips. It is understood that even though the athlete, whenever needed, wears protective equipment, the possibility of an accident still remains. Neither the University Interscholastic League nor the high school assumes any responsibility in case an accident occurs. I have read and understand the University Interscholastic League rules on this form and agree that my child will abide by all of the University Interscholastic League rules. The undersigned agrees to be responsible for the safe return of all athletic equipment issued by the school to their student. If, in the judgment of any representative of the school, this student needs immediate care and treatment as a result of any injury or sickness, I do hereby request, authorize, and consent to such care and treatment as may be given to said student by any physician, trainer, nurse, hospital, or school representative; and I do hereby agree to indemnify and save harmless the school and any school representative from any claim by any person whomsoever on account of such care and treatment of said student.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Students shall not be required to play on a non-school team as a prerequisite to playing on a school team. Team sport off-season regulations permit students to participate on non-school teams provided there is no involvement of school coaches who coach in grades 7-12 in your school attendance zone. An exception is made for baseball and softball. School coaches may coach non-school baseball and softball teams provided no more than 6 incoming 10th-12th grade students from that coach's school attendance zone are on the team. Students other than those who will be in their second, third or fourth year of high school may attend one summer camp in each team sport in which a 7th - 12th grade coach from their school attendance zone works with them. Each type of these sports camps is limited to no more than six consecutive days. Students shall not attend football camps where contact activities are permitted. Students may not attend invitation only camps. Other sports also have off-season and non-school regulations. It is the responsibility of the athlete, to gain this knowledge.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY RULES

According to UIL standards, students are eligible to represent their school in interscholastic athletic activities if they:

- * are less than 19 years old on September 1 preceding the contest,
- * have not graduated from high school,
- * are full-time, day students in the school, and have been in regular attendance at the school since the 6th class day of the current school year, or have been in regular attendance for 15 or more calendar days before the contest or competition,
- * are in compliance with state law and rules of the State Board of Education (No Pass, No Play),
- * are enrolled in a four year, normal program of high school courses, and initially enrolled in the 9th grade not more than 4 years ago nor in the 10th grade not more than 3 years ago,
- * were not recruited,
- * did not represent a college in a contest,
- * are not in violation of the Awards Rule,
- * live with their parents inside the school district attendance zone their first year of attendance or have been in attendance at the school for one calendar year,
- * have not moved for athletic purposes,
- * have not accepted money or any other valuable consideration for teaching or participating in any sport, have not been paid for allowing their name to be used for the promotion of any product, plan or service relating to any UIL activities
- * were eligible according to the fifteen day rule and the residence rule prior to district certification.

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child has indicated an interest in one or more of the Fort Bend Independent School District athletic teams. We feel that participation in sports is important in the growth and maturation of our students. Such participation develops physical skills and fitness, team cooperation, mental concentration, competitive spirit, sportsmanship and leadership. These qualities will serve your child throughout their life. Our coaching staff is looking forward to working with your child this school year. All athletes will be coached, instructed, and conditioned to compete at the peak of their abilities and to have a positive, rewarding team experience. Along with the competition and effort to acquire excellence is the reality of possible injury. Each coach is aware of the dangers and will make every effort to prevent injuries. With proper safety practices, injuries can be kept to a minimum, and most will be minor. However, major injuries can occur. We demand nothing but the best in instruction and care for our athletes. When the sport dictates it, we are striving to see that each participant is protectively equipped. The coaching staff will actively teach and practice safety as well as impart the value of physical fitness as a means of safety protection. If there is information about your child's health and well being their coach should be aware of, please contact the coach prior to participation. Please indicate with your signatures below that you and your child understand the possible risk of injury (minor or major) present in athletic participation, and return to your child's coach. We are looking forward to an enjoyable and safe year for all our students in all programs. I take this opportunity to wish your athlete success.

Sincerely,

Keith Kilgore
Athletic Director

I have read and understand the FBISD student athlete policies, rules and letter from the Athletic Director and agree that my son/daughter and I will abide by all the Fort Bend ISD policies.

Athlete's Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____