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Bastrop Independent School District Athletic Guidelines and Code of Conduct

School athletics does have a tremendous potential for meeting the needs of our youth. Both competition and cooperation have long been prized by our American culture and both are fostered by well conducted and competently directed athletic games. An intensive, well-balanced program of interscholastic sports should therefore be offered to all students. Interscholastic athletics for the physically gifted represents an area of great potential for practicing the pursuit of excellence.

It is therefore the goal of the athletic program to offer this opportunity of participation to every student who has the ability and desire to do so. However, no student is obligated to take part in athletics, nor is this required for graduation. *Student athletes and parents/guardians must understand that it is a PRIVILEGE to participate in Bastrop's interscholastic athletic program.* Therefore, all athletes are expected to adhere to the following:

- Athletes will be tough competitors in the athletic arena, but outside of the competitive arena they are expected to conduct themselves as gentlemen and ladies at all times, demonstrating respect and integrity for their administrators, teachers, fellow students, and themselves.
- Athletes are to model/display behaviors associated with positive leaders both in the school and in the community.
- Athletes are to exhibit good citizenship at all times.
- Athletes are to serve as positive representatives for their team, coaches, school, district, and community during competitions and interactions with rivals.
- Athletes are expected to strive for academic excellence and to adhere to the Board approved Student Code of Conduct as well as the Athletic Code of Conduct and Guidelines.

As athletes in Bastrop ISD, students have a responsibility to exhibit positive leadership characteristics. Participation in the athletic program and/or University Athletic League contests is a PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT. All students participating in athletics are expected to comply with all guidelines and with the Board approved Student Code of Conduct. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary consequences and/or removal from the athletic program.

General Guidelines

On the Field or Court - Student athletes are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship both on and off the field or court. During competitions, student-athletes will display respect for officials, opposing players and coaches, and fans and leave the resolution of any conflicts to the coaches. Student-athletes, as leaders, should demonstrate the ability to accept defeat as well as to be gracious winners.

Personal Appearance and Grooming – All students participating in extracurricular activities are expected to adhere to the dress code in the District's Student Code of Conduct and the higher standards set forth in this manual.

Earrings

- Earrings and facial piercings of any type are not allowed on male student-athletes while in the athletic facilities, during travel to/from athletic events, during home games or practices, or while a spectator during athletic events or banquets.
- The UIL does not permit jewelry during any competitions.

- Assume responsibility for bringing the appropriate equipment.
- Dress in a neat and appropriate manner that complies with all dress and grooming guidelines or as directed by the coach.
- Demonstrate and model appropriate behavior and good citizenship from the time of departure to the return to campus.
- Travel and return on the bus unless a prior written request has been made by a parent or guardian for the athlete to be released to their custody at the completion of the activity. All athletes must ride the bus to the event and no athlete will be released to anyone other than a parent or guardian at the conclusion of the event, unless prior written approval has been granted.
- High school athletes with vehicles will need to fill out a travel release form, signed by their parent or guardian, in order to drive to off-campus BISD facilities.

Quitting a Sport – Athletes wishing to quit or withdraw from a team after the first contest:

- Will meet with their coach and express his/her desire to discontinue participation in that sport.
- Will have his/her parents meet with the coach to acknowledge their awareness of their child's decision to discontinue participation.
- Will forfeit any award for the sport.
- Will be ineligible for participation in another sport until the end of the season of the sport from which they have withdrawn, unless the head coaches of both sports agree to the release.

Prohibited Items or Actions – Athletes will refrain from:

- Using or possessing tobacco of any kind, including electronic cigarettes.
- Consuming, using, or possessing alcohol, drugs, or drug paraphernalia.
- Attending or remaining at an activity or function where the student knows drugs and/or alcohol are being consumed illegally.
- Posting or communicating comments and photos that bring negative attention to or are disruptive to the team, a coach, a teammate, or the school.
 - Examples – obscene language or images, profanity, nudity, pictures at parties with alcohol, references to drugs, sex, illegal activities, derogatory comments regarding another school, athlete, or coach, fighting, academic dishonesty, hazing
- Posting or communicating any information that is sensitive or personal in nature or is proprietary to the Athletic Department or school which is not public information.
 - Examples – tentative or future team schedules/plans, athlete injury status, athlete eligibility status
- Participating in academic dishonesty, plagiarism, or cheating.

Athletic Code of Conduct – The discipline code for student-athletes has been developed in compliance with the District's Board-approved Student Code of Conduct, but with increased requirements due to the higher standards that are expected of student-athletes as leaders. It is the intent of the athletic staff of Bastrop ISD to emphasize that self-discipline and integrity are integral and essential components of any successful academic and athletic program. Specific information regarding the levels of discipline, violations, and consequences can be found in the Board-approved Student Code of Conduct. Student-athletes who are disciplined at the campus-level may also receive one or more of the following consequences under the athletic code of conduct:

- Coach/athlete/parent conference
- Additional sport-appropriate conditioning activities or assignments
- Community service hours
- Probation
- Suspension
- Dismissal

games.) When guilt or innocence is established, re-admission to the athletic program will be determined based on that outcome. In cases where the campus has jurisdiction to take disciplinary action, the student must complete any campus-level sanctions before consideration for reinstatement to the athletic program. Likewise, students on deferred adjudication will need to complete the probationary period specified by the judge prior to consideration for reinstatement to the athletic program.

Appeals -

- Level 1 - Head Coach
 - Conference with student and/or parent
 - Suspension of activity
 - Dismissal from activity
 - Other appropriate action (example: Community Service)
 - Request for appeal must be done within 5 school days

- Level 2 – Campus Athletic Coordinator and/or Campus Principal
 - Accept appeal and reduce action
 - Deny the appeal
 - Add to action/consequences
 - Other appropriate action
 - Request for appeal must be done within 5 school days

- Level 3 – District Coordinator of Athletics
 - Accept appeal and reduce action
 - Deny the appeal
 - Add to action/consequences
 - Other appropriate action
 - Request for appeal must be done within 5 school days

- Level 4 – Deputy Superintendent
 - *Only appeals of a permanent removal from the extracurricular activity may reach this level of the process*
 - Accept appeal and reduce action
 - Deny the appeal
 - Add to action/consequences
 - Other appropriate action
 - Cannot appeal this final decision

Athlete/Parent/Coach Communication Process - Before the start of each sport, the head coach will conduct a mandatory parent meeting regarding rules, regulations, and additional team rules will be distributed at that time. See attached Communication Brochure regarding the BISD communication process.

Athletic Passes - Each athlete will be given an athletic pass to be able to get into high school and middle school home games only. *This does not include tournaments and track meets.* When getting into the game, student must show his/her student id and/or license. The athlete can pick up the athletic pass from the athletic secretary. If the athlete loses the pass, he/she must pay a \$5.00 fee to be issued another. Additionally, student athletes must perform 2 hours of community service and turn in signed form to the

the doctor, the parent must do so in writing. Once the written note, expressing such desire, is received it will be reviewed by the medical staff at BHS or CCHS (this may include an additional examination of athlete). If the medical staff recommends holding an athlete out, and or recommend a doctor visit, a parent may not override and must follow the written instructions or follow up with the doctor who issued the original note. The parent's letter must state that BISD, and its staff, be released of any liability for allowing the parent to override the doctor's decision.

An athlete who has been injured will follow the following rules:

1. Report for treatment prior to school (8:00-8:35 a.m.), during athlete's athletic period, and after school.
2. Report for practice. The trainer will brief the coach with what drills the player can or cannot participate in. If the player is to be held out of the week's game, he will spend that time in treatment and/or rehabilitation.
3. An injured player is expected to be at practices, unless at rehab or treatment.
4. An injured player that does not report for treatment or call in is considered absent.
5. An injured player that does not follow rules 1 and 2 will not play in the week's game.
6. Middle School parents, with an injured player, can bring their son/daughter to be evaluated by the trainer before school and after school before taking him/her to the doctor for a suspected minor injury.
7. BISD trainers are also available to evaluate middle school athletes during their athletic periods. If a parent is requesting a trainer to evaluate an athlete during the athletic period, please contact either the boys or girls middle school coordinator prior to the school day. They will contact trainer to set up the evaluation that day. It's important that the coach not be handed the request as the athletic period is beginning. Contact must be made prior to the school day beginning.
8. Our trainers are here for the safety and well-being of the athletes and to get them competing as soon as they are able. Contact the trainers with any issues and/or questions that you may have.
9. Parent notes are not accepted to hold a player out due to a parent diagnosed injury. The trainers and/or doctor will make that determination. If a parent requests that his or her son be held out of workouts until evaluation by trainer, coaches will hold them out if trainer is unavailable to do so that day. The trainers will then determine injury, make recommendation to see doctor, prescribe rehabilitation routine and/or release him or her to participate.
10. A parent note requesting an athlete to not participate in class or practice can only be related to sickness and not injury. The parent note is only good for one calendar day. After 2 consecutive parent notes, a doctor's note is required.
11. After the 3rd parent note in a 6 week time frame, the trainers may revoke the physical on file and request a new physical to be filed with the district. Failure to do so in a timely manner will result in removal from the athletic period.

***All athletes are strongly encouraged to shower following practices to combat staph infections which can be serious. This could change to mandatory if a problem arises.**