

## LUBBOCK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETIC POLICY

**OBJECTIVES:** School athletics have a tremendous potential for meeting the needs of our youth. Competition and cooperation are prized by our American culture. Both are fostered by well-conducted and competently directed athletic contests. Therefore, an intensive, well-balanced program of interscholastic sports should be offered to all pupils. Interscholastic athletics for the physically gifted represents an area of great potential for practicing the pursuit of excellence.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the Lubbock ISD Athletic Program and its operation is to help each student become the very best person that he or she can be. In order to accomplish this purpose, the coaches and directors of this program must work with the students and their parents to:

- Contribute toward growth of the student academically, socially, physically and emotionally.
- Develop an awareness of the vital importance attitude plays toward success in any endeavor.
- Encourage achievement to the greatest potential in academic areas.
- Encourage awareness with regards to mannerisms, behavior, dress and general appearance.
- Teach, develop, and exhibit high moral and ethical values.
- Teach the pursuit and practice of excellence in competition.
- Develop skills and attitudes of lifelong recreational values.
- Increase self-reliance and capacity for hard work.
- Emphasize and encourage self-discipline essential for adult life.

**PARTICIPATION:** It is the goal of the athletic program to offer the 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 participation in athletics required for graduation. It is stressed that participation in the Lubbock ISD Athletic Program is a privilege, not a right. Since it is a privilege, the coaching staff, in accordance with Lubbock ISD Policy and Due Process Procedures, has the authority to suspend or revoke the privilege when the rules and the standards of the athletic program are not followed.

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION:**

- Students may participate in one or more interscholastic athletic activities provided they conform to other adopted policies regulating participation and are found to be physically fit by a licensed physician.
- Participants in football must participate in the physical training program for the student during the school year except when he is engaged in basketball.
- Students may represent the LISD in interscholastic athletics after they have participated in practice for a period of time specified by the head coach of the sport.
- Participation in one sport is not a prerequisite to participate in other sports.

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ATHLETE:** The privilege of representing the Lubbock ISD Athletic Program causes many things to be expected of you by the campus principals, coaches, teachers, parents, community, and most of all, by your teammates and classmates. Athletes are always on display. You are judged by the company you keep. Your actions in everyday life, both private and public, are a direct reflection on this athletic program, your teams, and your school. Failure to follow guidelines and policies in this publication may result in your removal from athletics.

### **SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES:**

#### **DURING COMPETITION, AN ATHLETE:**

- Learns that both winning and losing are part of the game and to accept both.

- Does not use illegal tactics in an attempt to defeat the opponent or to beat the rules of the game.
- Has complete control of himself/herself at all times. Clowning, displays of temper, use of profanity, assault, disrespect of coaches or officials will result in disciplinary action from the head coach.
  - Any student committing an assault is subject to immediate local and/or UIL SEC disciplinary actions.

**ON CAMPUS, AN ATHLETE:**

- Must maintain district guidelines to proper dress and appearance, good grooming, and personal cleanliness.
- Will not wear jewelry/earrings during athletic events as specified by governing rules (NCAA, NFHS, etc.) and/or athletic trips as regulated by the head coach.
- Will refrain from fighting, scuffling, and juvenile behavior in and around the school building.
- Will comply with campus expectations and will respond compliantly when redirected by campus staff.

**IN THE ATHLETIC PERIOD AND PRACTICE/CONTEST, AN ATHLETE:**

- Must notify the coach if he/she must miss a workout. This is the responsibility of the athlete. Failure to report your absence or excessive absences may result in disciplinary action or suspension.
- Will be prompt for roll call. Tardiness is unacceptable.
- Will maintain neat and clean dressing rooms.
- Will abide by the district's guidelines to proper dress and attire, health and safety standards, and personal grooming habits that may be deemed necessary for the particular sport.
  - Male/Female hair policy: Hair should be off the shoulders, pulled back out of the eyes to not obstruct vision. If hair is shoulder length or longer, hair must be neatly secured in a ponytail or bun during practice and competition.

**DURING TEAM TRAVEL, AN ATHLETE:**

- Will travel to and from all contests with the team. If you must ride home with your parents – you must follow the procedures set forth by Lubbock ISD policy which includes principal/athletic coordinator/coach approval and the completed alternative travel form.
- Will dress neatly and properly on all trips. Coaches will specify the attire.
- Will conduct himself/herself properly in any school vehicle.
- Will conduct himself/herself with dignity and proper manners.
- Will be on time for departure. The bus will not wait.
- Will not be allowed to bring family members or friends on bus trips.

**DURING THE SEASON:**

- **REST AND SLEEP:** Coaches may establish curfew regulations for the protection of the athlete and his/her team. Proper rest is necessary to combat fatigue.
- **DIET:** Your body cannot perform to its potential without a nutritionally balanced diet. Respiration and digestive processes are important to your performance so be aware of what you put in your body.

**TRAINING GUIDELINES FOR ATHLETES:**

THE FOLLOWING RULES APPLY TO ALL LUBBOCK ISD ATHLETES AT ALL TIMES DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR:

- NO POSSESSION OR CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

- NO POSSESSION OR USE OF TOBACCO/NICOTINE VAPES/E-CIGARETTES
- NO POSSESSION OR USE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES
- HAZING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AT ANY TIME. STUDENTS ENGAGING IN HAZING WILL FACE DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES.
  - Hazing defined: Any act, occurring on or off the campus, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purposes of pledging, initiation into, affiliation with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization. Consent to the hazing activity does not absolve the student of responsibility for the misconduct.

**THE HEAD COACH, IN COOPERATION WITH THE ATHLETIC COORDINATOR, WILL HANDLE VIOLATIONS OF THE ABOVE RULES. ALL INCIDENTS SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE ATHLETIC OFFICE.**

**THE ATHLETE WHO VIOLATES THE ABOVE TRAINING GUIDELINES SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING:**

- Upon confirmation of the first violation the athlete may be suspended from athletics for a period of up to 30 school days.
- A second violation of these rules may result in suspension for a period of up to 60 school days.
- A third violation of these rules may result in expulsion from athletics.

**\*\*ANY VIOLATION ON SCHOOL PROPERTY, SCHOOL VEHICLE, SCHOOL EVENT OR SCHOOL FUNCTION WILL RESULT IN MAXIMUM SUSPENSION.**

**\*\*ANY ATHLETE ASSIGNED TO ONE OR MORE DAYS OF IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS) OR OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION (OSS) WILL PRACTICE, BUT NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY CONTESTS DURING THAT SCHOOL WEEK.**

**\*\*ANY ATHLETE ASSIGNED TO A DAEP PLACEMENT OR A DAEP PLACEMENT SUBSTITUTE CONSEQUENCE WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR THE DURATION OF THE PLACEMENT.**

**FELONY CRIMES:** The Lubbock ISD Athletic Department will follow the guidelines of the Texas High School Coaches Association's Code of Ethics when dealing with felony crimes. Article IX of the T.H.S.C.A. Code of Ethics states: It will be considered a breach of the Code of Ethics to willingly allow a student-athlete who is charged with, and/or under indictment for, a felony crime to participate in an athletic contest. This action should not be considered a presumption of guilt, but rather it affords the accused athlete the time and opportunity to clear their name. The student-athlete may be allowed to remain on their team as a suspended member, but should not be allowed to represent their school or community in an athletic contest while under suspension.

**OTHER CRIMES AND SUSPICION OF CRIMES:** The Athletic Director reserves the right to suspend any student athlete, who is suspected of committing any crime, depending on the circumstances. The Athletic Department's decisions will not conflict with any state or federal laws or the State Student Code of Conduct. (Chapter 37)

**REST AND SLEEP:** Coaches may establish curfew regulations for the protection of the athlete and his/her team. Proper rest is necessary to combat fatigue.

**DIET:** Your body cannot perform to its potential without a nutritionally balanced diet. Respiration and digestive processes are important to your performance so be aware of what you put in your body.

**ATHLETIC TRAINER:**

- A licensed and certified athletic trainer is employed by the Lubbock ISD and has provided your coaches

with instructions regarding treatment of athletic injuries. The trainer and the coach will work together to provide you with the best care and conditioning possible.

- Whenever you are injured or have an illness of minor nature, you may be required to dress out, but not participate and stay with your group during workout.
- If you are injured, let our trainer know first. He will assist you in examination and referral to a physician.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE PARENTS OF INTERSCHOLASTIC STUDENT-ATHLETES**

*We believe that interscholastic athletic competition should demonstrate high standards of ethics, sportsmanship, and promote the development of good character and other important life skills. We also believe that the highest potential of sports is achieved when participants are committed to pursuing victory with honor.*

### **TRUSTWORTHINESS**

- **Trustworthiness** – be worthy of trust in all you do.
- **Integrity** – live up to high ideals of ethics and sportsmanship; do what's right even when it's unpopular or personally costly.
- **Honesty** – live and act honorable; don't allow your children to lie, cheat, steal or engage in any other dishonest or unsportsmanlike conduct.
- **Reliability** – fulfill commitments; do what you say you will do; be on time; when you tell your children you will attend an event, be sure to do so.

### **RESPECT**

- **Respect** – treat people with respect all the time and require the same of your children.
- **Class** – live and cheer with class; be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity; compliment extraordinary performance; and show respect for all competitors.
- **Disrespectful Conduct** – don't engage in disrespectful conduct of any sort including profanity, obscene gestures, offensive remarks of a sexual nature, trash-talking, taunting, boastful celebrations, or other actions that demean individuals or the sport.
- **Respect Officials** – treat contest officials with respect; don't complain about or argue with official calls or decisions during or after an athletic event.
- **Respect Coaches** – treat coaches with respect at all times; recognize that they have team goals beyond those of your child. Don't shout instructions to players from the stands; let the coaches coach.

### **RESPONSIBILITY**

- **Importance of Education** – stress that student-athletes are students first. Be honest with your children about the likelihood of getting an athletic scholarship or playing on a professional level. Place the academic, emotional, physical and moral well-being of your children above desires and pressures to win.
- **Role-modeling** – Consistently exhibit good character and conduct yourself as a role model for your children.
- **Self-Control** – exercise self-control; don't fight or show excessive displays of anger or frustration; have the strength to overcome the temptation to demean others.
- **Integrity of the game** – Protect the integrity of the game; don't gamble on your children's games.
- **Privilege to Compete** – assure that you and your child understand that participation in interscholastic sports is a privilege, not a right, and that they are expected to represent their team, school and family with honor, on and off the field.

### **FAIRNESS**

- **Be Fair** – treat all competitors fairly; be open-minded; always be willing to listen and learn.

### **CARING**

- **Encouragement** – encourage your children regardless of their play; offer positive reinforcement. Demonstrate sincere interest in your child's play.

- **Concern for Others** – demonstrate concern for others; never encourage the injury of any player, officials or follow spectator.
- **Empathy** – consider the needs and desires of your child’s teammates in addition to your own; help promote the team concept by encouraging all team members, understanding that the coach is responsible for determining playing time.

### ~ PARENT / COACH RELATIONSHIPS ~

Both parenting and coaching are very difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding between coaches and parents, both are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide a more positive experience for everyone. Parents have the right to know, and understand, the expectations placed on them and their children.

Coaches have the right to know that if parents have a concern, they will discuss it with the coach at the appropriate time and place. UIL Parent Manual page 4-5

#### **Communication parents should expect from their child’s coach:**

- Coach’s philosophy
- Expectations the coach has for your son or daughter, as well as other players on the team
- Locations and times of practices and contests
- Team requirements: fees, equipment needed, school & team rules, off-season expectations
- Procedures that will be followed if your child becomes injured during participation

#### **Communication coaches expect from parents:**

- Concerns regarding their child expressed directly to the coach at the appropriate time and place
- Specific concerns in regard to the coach’s philosophy and/or expectations
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance

As your child becomes involved in interscholastic athletics, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It’s important to understand there may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. These are the times discussion with the coach is encouraged.

#### **Appropriate concerns to discuss with a coach:**

- The mental and physical treatment of your child.
- What your child needs to do to improve.
- Concerns about your child’s behavior.

It is very difficult to accept that your child is not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches make decisions based on what they believe is in the best interests of all students participating. As you can see from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child’s coach. Other things must be left to the discretion of the coach.

#### **Issues NOT appropriate for discussion with your child’s coach:**

- How much playing time each athlete is getting
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Any situation that deals with other student-athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and parent. These are not discouraged, as it is important for each party to have a clear understanding of the others’ position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure is suggested to help promote resolution to the issue.

#### **If a parent has a concern to discuss with the coach, the following procedure should be followed:**

- Call the coach to set up an appointment.
- If the coach cannot be reached, call the campus athletic coordinator and ask him or her to set up a meeting.
- Think about what you expect to accomplish as a result of the meeting.
- Stick to discussing the facts as you understand them.
- Do not confront the coach before, during or after a practice or contest. These can be emotional times for both the

parent and coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution of the situation, but often escalate it.

**What should a parent do if the meeting with the coach didn't provide satisfactory resolution?**

- Call the campus athletic coordinator to set up a meeting with the athletic director, coach, and parent present.
- At this meeting, an appropriate next step can be determined, if necessary.

**~ BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS OF SPECTATORS ~**

Remember that you are at the contest to support and yell for your team and to enjoy the skill and competition, not to intimidate or ridicule the other team or its fans.

Remember that school athletics are a learning experience for students and that mistakes are sometimes made. Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes, and as people, just as you would praise a student working in the classroom.

A ticket is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious. Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place. Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups.

Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Understand that they are doing their best to help promote the student-athlete, and admire their willingness to participate in full view of the public. Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.

Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before, during, and after the game on or near the site of the event (i.e. tailgating).

Use only cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.

Be a positive role model at events through your own actions and by censuring those around you whose behavior is unbecoming.

Parents and spectators should be aware that the school can (and should) remove them from the premises and can prohibit them from attending future contests due to undesirable behaviors.

Game officials can ask that school administrators have unruly fans removed from a contest facility.

There is no such thing as a "right" to attend interscholastic athletics. Interscholastic athletics are considered a "privilege," and attending spectators are expected to conduct themselves accordingly.

Keep in mind that you are a guest of the school, and that while winning is certainly an admirable goal, it is hollow if it comes at the expense of morals, ethics, and just plain common sense.

The school is responsible for the behavior of their spectators. The school district can and will be punished for actions of patrons in violation of UIL standards and rules.

## **PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

THE FOLLOWING BEHAVIORS ARE FORBIDDEN AND APPLY TO ALL PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF LUBBOCK ISD ATHLETES AT ALL TIMES DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR:

1. Making derogatory comments about coaches, officials, players, or others
2. Swearing
3. Attending an athletic event while intoxicated
4. Assault of a coach or official
5. Being offensive in any manner

THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST A PARENT/GUARDIAN WHO VIOLATES THIS CODE:

1. Removal from premises
2. A written or verbal warning
3. The prohibition of contact with the team
4. Banned from school activities
5. UIL SEC disciplinary actions
6. Legal proceedings

