

Bryan Independent School District

Bryan ISD

Athletic Handbook



Bryan ISD Athletic Department

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This handbook was developed to familiarize student-athletes and parents with the procedures of The Bryan Independent School District's High School Athletic Program. It defines various procedures that are to be followed in order to facilitate effective communication and fulfillment of the athletic department philosophy.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The Bryan ISD Athletic Department's objective is to play a pivotal role in development of skills in leadership, teamwork, dependability, accountability, sportsmanship, and work ethic. Maintaining high standards of conduct, citizenship and academic achievement are essential to this process. Athletes will be evaluated on a constant basis to encourage each individual to perform to the best of their ability at all times. The development and welfare of the student-athlete is our concern and transcends any other consideration.

The athletic program in Bryan ISD is a voluntary program. It is a privilege, not a right, to be a student-athlete in Bryan ISD; therefore, the privilege of representing the Bryan Independent School District carries with it a greater responsibility to conduct oneself with respect and dignity, and to serve as a role model for all students. Student-athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on the School District at all times, regardless of location. This includes both on and off-campus conduct that occurs before, during and after the school year. Consequently, it is necessary for student-athletes to hold to a certain code of conduct that is above and beyond those followed by their peers.

A firm and fair policy of enforcement is necessary to uphold the regulations and standards of the athletic department. All student-athletes shall abide by the expectations set forth in this handbook, which will earn them the honor and respect that participation and competition in interscholastic programs affords. Negative attitudes and behaviors violate the athletic department's goals and philosophies. Acts of unacceptable conduct tarnish the reputation of everyone associated with the athletic program and will not be tolerated. Violations could result in losing the privilege of participating in Bryan ISD athletics.

The general philosophy of the BISD Athletic Department regarding violations of conduct or academic policy is that when these expectations are not met, then the athlete is experiencing a "setback." With each "setback," there is a consequence. We will strive to help student-athletes when a "setback" occurs. If these choices of behavior continue, the welfare of the team and the athletic program must take priority. Coaches have the responsibility to maintain a consistent and fair system of discipline with their teams, but should exercise sound judgment in evaluating specific consequences for "setbacks," keeping in mind the welfare of the team, as well as the individual.

PARENT-COACH COMMUNICATION PLAN

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefits to children. As a parent, when your child becomes involved in the athletic program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

Communication Parents Should Expect from Their Child's Coach

The following should be made available to parents at the beginning of the season

Practice and game information, including locations, times, structure and attendance expectations.

Procedures for reporting and attending to injuries.

Academic requirements for eligibility.

Sportsmanship expectations for athletes and fans.

How and when to contact the coach with a question or a concern.

Team rules and expectations.

Communication Coaches Should Expect from Parents

Notification of any schedule conflicts as soon as possible, but at least 24 hours before a game or practice by phone or email, unless it is an emergency.

Specific concerns about your child's behavior.

Specific concerns about the treatment of your child, mentally and physically.

Issues NOT Appropriate to Discuss With Coaches

Other athletes in the program.

Coaches and their strategies.

PLAYING TIME: As your child becomes involved in the athletic program, he/she will experience some of the most rewarding moments of his/her life. It is also important to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way you and your child wishes. Usually, this involves playing time. The Bryan ISD Athletic Department believes that it is in the best interest of our students to provide as many opportunities for participation as possible, this may include participation in a developmental program. Coaches are professionals, and they make judgments based on their training and what they feel is best for all student-athletes involved in their programs. Playing time is earned through performance and is not guaranteed to any student-athlete. If a student-athlete is concerned about their playing time they should request a meeting with their respective coaches. Coaches will provide honest feedback to the athlete and identify performance areas that can be improved to gain additional playing time and experience.

Procedure for Addressing with the Coach an Appropriate Concern:

Parents must follow the proper chain of command pertaining to any issues, concerns or questions. This process always begins first with the coach.

1. Email or call the coach to schedule a time to discuss your concern. Please recognize that coaches are also teachers and have other responsibilities which may prohibit them from getting back to you immediately. You can expect a response to your request within 48 hours.
*Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution. A **24-hour "cool-down" period** immediately after each game/contest is in place during which there should be no contact or discussion with a coach. Please respect the 24-hour cool-down period policy.*
2. Discuss concern with the coach.
3. After meeting with the coach, if you are not satisfied with the resolution, contact the Campus Athletic Director/Coordinator to set up a meeting.

BISD STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPECTATIONS

Students in the Bryan ISD Athletic Program are representatives of the School District and must conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on the School District at all times.

- Student-athletes will act as students first and athletes second. Dedication to academic success is necessary to compete in the athletic program.
- Student-athletes will comply with all UIL rules and guidelines.
- Student-athletes will comply with, and adhere to, the behavioral, dress and grooming standards as identified in the Bryan ISD Student Code of Conduct.
- Student-athletes will comply with all BISD Athletic Department rules and guidelines and those established for a specific team in which the student-athlete participates.
- Student-athletes will treat all school property with respect and ensure that school property is returned upon request and in good condition (excluding reasonable wear and tear).
- Student-athletes will be courteous and respectful toward all fellow participants, school faculty and staff members, district support staff, spectators, parents and officials, whether from BISD or from any other school district.
- Student-athletes will be punctual and prepared for all games, practices, meetings, and/or other scheduled events related to athletics. They are expected to provide advanced prior notice to the coach if unable to attend any of these activities as soon as possible, but at least 24 hours in advance unless it is an unexpected circumstance.
- Student-athletes will be responsible for themselves and accountable for their own actions.
- Student-athletes will be hard workers on and off the field/court.
- Student-athletes will be coachable. Being coachable means they are willing to accept feedback from the coach without pushback and then give an honest effort to try and use feedback to better their skills.
- Student-athletes will place the team above self.
- Male athletes will not wear earrings while representing BISD Athletics in practice, games, while traveling with the team, etc.
- Student-athletes will carry themselves as positive role models at all times by upholding a positive image, displaying leadership, and respecting the rights of others.
- Student-athletes will not engage in the use or promotion of drugs, alcohol, tobacco products or steroids.
- Student-athletes will be dedicated to the Bryan Athletic Program.

SOCIAL MEDIA EXPECTATIONS OF BISD ATHLETES

All student-athletes will follow BISD Policy regarding Social Media. Student-athletes can be disciplined by the athletic department for social media instances deemed inappropriate. Once sent, consequences designated by the coach in conjunction with campus and/or district administration will occur.

UIL PHYSICALS AND PAPERWORK

Student-athletes must complete a new medical history and pre-participation physical annually on or after April 15th preceding the academic year in which he/she wishes to participate. Those who are in the athletic period are expected to have a UIL Physical form and all required paperwork on file within 6 school days from the first day of school, or within 6 days from the first day they are enrolled if they transfer in after school has started. Students who do not have a UIL Physical and all required paperwork on file within this time frame may be removed from the Athletic Period.

Athletes that are not in the Athletic Period, but are participating in a sport, will not be allowed to participate, nor will they be considered part of the team until they have a UIL Physical form and all required paperwork on file.

TRANSFERS

SCHOOL SPECIFIC PROGRAM TRANSFERS

A student whose request for transfer to a school other than their zoned school to participate in a district approved, school specific program, will be varsity eligible immediately, so long as the transfer was requested and approved at first opportunity. If the student voluntarily returns to their zoned campus, he/she will be ineligible for varsity competition for one calendar year.

GYMNASTICS OR SWIMMING TRANSFERS

A student that is granted a transfer for Gymnastics or Swimming will be required to participate in the athletic period corresponding with that sport. Any other sport the transfer athlete wishes to participate in will be practiced outside of the school day. If at any time the student is no longer a member of the sport in which they were granted the transfer, that student will be transferred back to their zoned campus.

PROCEDURES FOR QUITTING A SPORT

Any player beginning a season in a sport is expected to fulfill their commitment to that team. The whole premise of our program is built on commitment, responsibility, and a “never give up attitude”. Concerns and frustrations can usually be worked out with proper communication between the athlete and coach. The season is defined as two weeks after the first day of practice and ends with the final game.

Any athlete wishing to quit a sport must Meet with their coach and express his/her desire to discontinue participation in that sport. If a player quits a sport that player will not be eligible to participate in another sport until the sport they quit is over. Participation is considered practices and try-outs outside of the school period, and use of facilities before or after school or playing in an athletic contest. Exceptions can be made if the Head Coach of the sport that the athlete quit, the Campus Coordinator and the Head Coach of the sport the athlete is wanting to participate in all agree that the athlete quit for extenuating circumstances.

If the athlete desires to get out of athletics completely or is removed from participating in athletics by the Campus Coordinator, but is not allowed to be removed from the athletic class by the counselor’s office, they must attend class daily and follow all coaches directives which may include dressing out and participating in some capacity in order to receive a passing grade. If a student has quit sports more than once, that student may face more severe consequences which may include not being allowed to participate in future seasons of the sport they quit and/or the possibility of not being allowed to participate in any athletic program at BISD.

STUDENT REMOVED FROM A SPORT

If a student athlete is removed from a sport or is not allowed to participate in a sport due to behavioral issues – they will not be allowed to participate in that sport at another BISD campus until or unless that sport has ended. Once the duration of the removal is over and if that student athlete is allowed into that sport, they will be placed on a behavioral contract. If a student is removed from the overall athletic program for a designated time period, it will be in effect for that student at all BISD campuses.

STUDENT-ATHLETE VIOLATIONS and CONSEQUENCES

LEVEL 1 MISCONDUCT

- Grooming or dress code policy violation, as defined by Student Code of Conduct
- Tardy to academic class, or tardy to practice or games without permission
- Not providing prior notice to the coach when absent from practice/event
- Missing practices (this includes before, during and after school, as well as scheduled Saturday or holiday practices)
- Not dressing out for practice without prior permission from coach
- Engaging in acts of disrespectful behavior, such as:
 - o cheating in classroom
 - o using profane language or gestures during competition or practice
 - o being insubordinate to a teacher, coach, school official, or game official
 - o being disruptive during a class, practice, game, meeting or other school event
 - o taunting or unsportsmanlike behavior toward an opponent or spectators
 - o Referral or ISS placement--ISS Assignment results in no game competition allowed during the assignment, but the athlete is allowed to practice after school with his/her team during ISS assignment.
- Failing to return school property as directed.

LEVEL ONE VIOLATIONS may result in:

- 1. Sport related Discipline Reminders (to be determined by the Coach)**
 - 2. Placement on an Athletic Department Behavior Contract if repeatedly breaking Level 1 rules.**
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LEVEL 2 MISCONDUCT

- Fighting
- Repeated Level 1 offenses
- Engaging in theft, destruction, or misuse of school district property.
- Engaging in hazing, harassment or bullying of others as defined by the Bryan ISD Student Code of Conduct.
- Social media instances deemed inappropriate.
- Engaging in conduct prohibited by the Bryan ISD Student Code of Conduct that is punishable by placement in DAEP or expulsion.

LEVEL TWO VIOLATIONS may result in:

- 1. A conference with Head Coach**
 - 2. A placement on an Athletic Department Behavior Contract**
 - 3. A possible game/event suspension**
 - 4. Removal from the Athletic Program**
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LEVEL 3 MISCONDUCT

- Any Misconduct that results in DAEP Placement

LEVEL 3 VIOLATIONS may result in:

- 1. A Behavioral Contract**
- 2. Removal from the athletic program**

EXAMPLE OF A STUDENT-ATHLETE BEHAVIOR CONTRACT

BISD ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

I (Student Name) _____, understand that I am on probation concerning my status with the Bryan ISD Athletic Program. I know that any incident in which I do not meet the behavioral expectations, on of the athletic program will result in immediate disciplinary action. I fully understand what those behavioral expectations are, and I also understand that by signing this contract I have agreed to the terms and conditions listed below:

Upon any violation of campus rules, team rules or BISD Athletic Department rules, the following will result:

- 1. One Game Suspension**
- 2. One Discipline Reminder Workout for 5 days.**
- 3. The Athlete will be expected to participate in practice or off-season workouts. The Discipline Reminder Workout will take place at the beginning of practice or off-season workout or once practice or off-season workout is complete. This will be the Coach's decision.**
- 4. Issuing a formal apology to the coaching staff and teammates for actions detrimental to the team.**
- 5. Any violation of Team Rules and expectations may result in the athlete being removed from the sport involved or removed from the athletic program.**

I understand that failure to meet these conditions may result in termination from the athletic program.

Athlete Signature _____

Date _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Coach _____

Date _____

1st OFFENSE DETAILS:

2nd OFFENSE DETAILS

3rd OFFENSE DETAILS: