

Hermleigh Independent School District 2025-2026 Athletic Code of Conduct

I. UIL Athletic Activities

The term "UIL Activities" means, without limitation, all interscholastic athletics that serve as a representative of the District and are recognized and approved by the Board of Trustees and the school district and sponsored by the district or a campus.

II. Jurisdiction

Student participation in UIL sanctioned athletics activities is encouraged. **Hermleigh ISD** makes UIL sanctioned athletic activities available as an extension of the regular school program, with this important difference: participation in the regular curriculum is a right afforded to each student, while participation in the UIL sanctioned program is a privilege that includes activities in which students represent not only themselves, but also other students and the school district. In such activities, students are performing, competing, or participating in UIL sanctioned activities and wearing uniforms or other clothing that identifies the student to the community or public in any setting as **Hermleigh ISD** students. For this reason, their behavior must be exemplary and reflect the finest attributes of the total **Hermleigh ISD** student body at all times and places.

Important goals of the UIL sanctioned athletic programs are to give students direction in developing self-discipline, responsibility, pride, loyalty, leadership, teamwork, respect for authority, and healthy living habits.

Because participation in UIL sanctioned activities is a privilege and not a right, **Hermleigh ISD** is authorized to set higher standards for participants of UIL sanctioned activities than it would for those students who choose not to participate in these activities. Therefore, this **Athletic Code of Conduct** extends beyond the **Hermleigh ISD Student Code of Conduct** not only in types of behavior prohibited, but also in corresponding consequences and jurisdiction for imposing discipline. This **Code of Conduct** will be enforced with all students' grades **6th through 12th** participating in UIL sanctioned activities:

- ❖ regardless of whether school is in session;
- ❖ regardless of whether the offense occurs on or off school property or at a school- related event;
- ❖ regardless of whether the student is directly involved with the UIL sanctioned athletics activity at the time the prohibited conduct occurs;
- ❖ regardless of whether the UIL sanctioned activity is in-season; and
- ❖ regardless of where or when the conduct occurs.

It is possible that a student who violates the **Hermleigh ISD Student Code of Conduct** will incur consequences from both the appropriate school administrator and from his or her coach or sponsor for the same particular violation. It is also possible that a student participating in UIL sanctioned athletics activities could violate the **Athletic Code of Conduct** and be subject to discipline by a coach or sponsor without having violated the **Hermleigh ISD Student Code of Conduct**.

III. Conduct Expectations

The following conduct is expected of all participants. Failure to meet these expectations can result in disciplinary action by the coach or sponsor:

- ❖ Student commitment to a team or organization is expected for the entire season or activity. Students are encouraged to participate in more than one UIL sanctioned athletics activity; however students may not quit one sport or organization in order to participate in another while the sport or club that he or she quits is still active.
- ❖ Students who participate in UIL sanctioned athletics activities that involve competition among schools and school districts will conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times. This includes behavior toward visiting teams or hosting teams as well as the opponent's fans. **Hermleigh ISD** participants will be noted for clean, tough, competitive play.
- ❖ Students should arrive to practices (including workouts), meetings, and events early and prepared.
- ❖ Students who cannot be present for a practice (including workouts), meeting, or event should notify the coach or sponsor, as soon as they are aware that they will be absent. Missed practices, meetings or workouts will be made-up; however, disciplinary action may still be taken for unexcused absences. This may be at the discretion of the coach or sponsor.
- ❖ Injured or ill students who are unable to participate, but are able to attend a practice (including workouts), meeting or event are required to dress appropriately and sit or stand with the rest of the group, unless given permission from the coach or sponsor to do otherwise.
- ❖ Students are required to show respect at all times to coaches and sponsors.
- ❖ Students should refrain from wearing hair styles or hair colors that draw attention to themselves. Male and female students participating in sports are required to follow dress code from the student handbook.
- ❖ Students should follow the rules stated in **Hermleigh ISD Student Code of Conduct**. Failure to do so may result in additional disciplinary measures related to the student's participation in UIL sanctioned athletics activities as determined by the coach or sponsor.
- ❖ Parents if any issues and/or concerns arise during a competition, allow 24 hours to contact the coach. At this time, meetings can be set up with the head coach of the sport. Any further meetings will be addressed by the athletic director.

IV. Attendance Expectations

- ❖ Students involved in UIL sanctioned athletics must comply with the 90% state compulsory attendance laws. If a student's absences exceed the maximum number of allowed absences (generally 9 absences allowed per semester), the student becomes ineligible to participate until he/she is within compliance. In order to regain eligibility, student attendance at Saturday School or some other means of making-up attendance will be required. For extenuating circumstances, the student's case may be referred to the attendance committee for review.
- ❖ **Excused Absences practice** anytime you miss for any reason the student athlete must let a coach know beforehand. Medical appointments (need a doctor's note), at home/sent home sick (must have parent contact), funerals, school activities, weddings, church/religious activities. There will be no punishment for excused absences but they must make up for the workout(s) they missed.

- ❖ **Unexcused Absences practice** anytime you miss for any reason the student athlete must let a coach know beforehand. Unexcused absence will result in disciplinary action upon the coach's discretion. Three or more unexcused absences per sport will result in the possibility of being removed from the team. If athletes miss they must make up for the workout(s) they missed.

- ❖ **Excused Absences Games** anytime you miss for any reason the student athlete must let a coach know beforehand. Medical appointments (need a doctor's note), at home/sent home sick (must have parent contact), funerals, school activities, weddings, church/religious activities. There will be no punishment for excused absences but they must make up for the workout(s) they missed.

- ❖ **Unexcused Absences Games** anytime you miss for any reason the student athlete must let a coach know beforehand. Unexcused absence will result in disciplinary action upon the coach's discretion. 1 or more unexcused absences (Games) per sport will result in the possibility of being removed from the team. Unexcused absence will result in disciplinary action upon the coach's discretion. If athletes miss they must make up for the workout(s)/ Games they missed.

- ❖ **Game Day Attendance:** All athletes must attend at least half a day of school or the equivalent of four class periods on the day of the game to be eligible to play. Students who have a doctor's note, family emergencies, attending a funeral or competing in other school activities are considered excused absences. Any student who does not attend the minimum required attendance will not be allowed to participate in that game on that day.

V. Prohibited Conduct

Hermleigh ISD students who participate in UIL sanctioned athletics are prohibited at all times from:

- ❖ possessing, smoking, selling or using tobacco products; this includes vaping

- ❖ possessing or using drug paraphernalia;

- ❖ possessing, selling, giving, delivering to another person, using, or being under the influence of marijuana, alcohol, a controlled substance, or any dangerous drug;

- ❖ engaging in serious misbehavior as that term is defined in the **Hermleigh ISD Student Code of Conduct**.

- ❖ underage drinking or smoking

- ❖ Vandalism

- ❖ Stealing

- ❖ conduct that causes injury or harm to persons or property;
- ❖ using profanity, lewd or vulgar language, or obscene gestures;
- ❖ fighting;
- ❖ any conduct resulting in arrest and / or citations from law enforcement officers;
- ❖ inappropriate touching including “making out” in public places, sexual gestures, or exposing parts of the body that are ordinarily covered up at a school function

VI. Procedures

The coach and /or sponsor will determine whether a **Hermleigh Athletics Code of Conduct** violation of section **V Prohibited conduct** has occurred.

Upon determination of an **Hermleigh Athletics Code of Conduct** violation, the following individuals will be notified:

- ❖ the student and the student’s parent (s); and
- ❖ school administration

Nothing in this **Athletics Code of Conduct** limits the authority of a coach or sponsor to impose reasonable sanctions, including extra workouts, for students who breach team or organization conduct expectations but do not engage in prohibited activities.

VII. Disciplinary Action For Violating Section V. Prohibited Conduct

Coaches and sponsors will review all the facts and circumstances surrounding a particular violation and impose appropriate disciplinary action. Coaches and sponsors will strive for consistency in meting out punishment for **Hermleigh Athletics Code of Conduct** violations, but will also exercise sound professional discretion. Violation of any of the above-mentioned rules by a student participating in UIL sanctioned athletics activities will be subject to the following disciplinary action:

- ❖ suspension and discipline from all UIL sanctioned athletics activities for the following time periods:
 - 1st Offense – Possible suspension for at least 1 competition. At least 3 miles per day until a total of 15 miles outside of regular practice time. If three miles are not completed each day additional games suspension will result.
 - 2nd offense - Suspension for at least 2 games. At least 3 miles per day until a total of 30 miles outside of regular practice time. If three miles are not completed per day additional game suspensions will result.
 - 3rd offense- Dismissed from all extracurricular activities for the remainder of the school year In order to participate the following year: At least 3 miles per day till a total of 60 miles.
 - 4th offense- Principal/Superintendent Review: Consequences established at the review.

Explanations: What if a student breaks two or more of the rules on the same night? Ex. TWO offenses have been committed - Discipline will be administered under the guidelines for a SECOND OFFENSE.

VIII. Quitting/Dismissal of UIL sanctioned athletics Activity

Students who quit or are dismissed from an UIL sanctioned athletics activity will be required to complete mandatory conditioning before being allowed to participate in another UIL sanctioned athletics activity. If an athlete quits, there is a 24 hour grace period. This allows coaches, parents and the athlete to meet and discuss further decisions. Consequences may be enforced at the coach's discretion, if practices or games were missed during the 24 hour period. **A one week grace period after the first day of a season will be granted to each participant.** See below:

❖ 1st case – 15 miles ran with the previous coach and cannot participate in the next sport until completed.

❖ 2nd case – 30 miles and cannot participate in the next sport until completed.

❖ 3rd case – 60 miles and cannot participate in athletics for one calendar year (365 days)

Students will show a commitment to the UIL sanctioned athletics program by completing this conditioning.

IX. Expectations regarding social media

Student-athletes must understand and follow the rules of each particular social media site. Do not post anything private, confidential or sensitive.

Do not post comments that attack a student-athlete, coach, teacher, or administrator of Hermleigh ISD.

Do not post information, photos, or other representations of sexual content, harassing language, or inappropriate behavior.

Do not comment on student-athlete injuries, playbooks, rosters, officiating or any other team information that should remain confidential.

Do not post anything that can be detrimental to team morale, or cause conflicts within your team.

Violation of the student-athlete social media policy may result in one or more of the following disciplinary actions:

Meeting with your Coach, and or Athletic Director, and or Superintendent.

Requiring the removal of the unacceptable content.

Deactivating the social media profile.

Removal from the team/athletics.

X. Acknowledgement

STUDENT: I have read the **Hermleigh ISD Athletics Code of Conduct** and agree to adhere to these rules as a condition for my voluntary participation in **Hermleigh ISD** UIL sanctioned athletics activities. I understand that failure to do so will result in disciplinary measures related to my UIL sanctioned athletics participation.

PARENT/Guardian: I have read the **Hermleigh ISD Athletics Code of Conduct** and understand the requirements for my child's voluntary participation in **Hermleigh ISD** UIL sanctioned athletics activities. I understand that by allowing my student/athlete to participate, the consequences that my child will face if he or she fails to adhere to these rules and agree to such terms.