

Wharton I.S.D.
Athlete Handbook
2018-2019



Athlete's Last Name

First Name

Grade

WHARTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

2018-2019 ATHLETIC GUIDELINES ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

The 2018-2019 Athletic Handbook is available online at www.whartonisd.net.

If you would like a paper copy you may come by the High School Athletic Office or call 979-488-4849 to request a copy to be sent home with your student. The Junior High will also have copies available to be sent home upon request. To contact the Junior High Athletic office call 979-532-6840.

Please sign and return this form and keep the athletic policies for your records.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE GUIDELINES THAT WILL BE USED IN THE WHARTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT AND AGREE TO SUPPORT AND ABIDE BY THESE POLICIES.

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Athlete's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Note: The Wharton ISD Athletic Department Policies are guidelines for the athletic department. The Athletic Director has the option of changing or recommending a different course of action depending on the situation.

ATHLETIC STATEMENT

Wharton ISD strives to foster character, leadership, and decision-making skills through student involvement in supervised programs and activities. These policies provide guidelines and expectations applicable to all Wharton ISD student athletes. These policies supplement the Wharton ISD Student Code of Conduct. WISD Athletic Department Policies are in effect year-round including all weekends, school holidays, and summer vacation. The school year ends with the last day of school and the policies for the upcoming year go into effect the following day. The Athletic Director and/or the Head Coach have the authority to dismiss an athlete for violations of these guidelines. Students who are disciplined or dismissed may schedule a conference with the athletic director to discuss the charges pending against them.

The most important aspect of successful programs besides hard work is the strict belief in the concept of the team. While each member of the team has individual goals or responsibilities in their position, the ultimate goal is to work together as one unit to complete the task at hand. As coaches, it is our goal to build the team concept above being an individual, develop the importance of team over each athlete's individual success, and help improve communication skills between all members of the team. We all contribute in some way to the total team success. Whatever your status, be proud of the role you play and work as hard as you can. We have high expectations of each and every team and staff member.

MESSAGE TO OUR PLAYERS AND PARENTS

Participation in any extra-curricular activity is not a right, it is a privilege.

As with any privilege which gives satisfaction or rewards back to the participant, there must be a price to pay in order to reap those rewards. The following rules and policies give a clear indication of exactly what is expected and demanded of you as a member of this program.

WHARTON ATHLETIC PROGRAM POLICIES

CONDUCT

Category A Violations

Prohibited Conduct: Buying, selling, giving, delivering, using, possessing, or being under the influence of alcohol, marijuana, a controlled substance (without a proper prescription), or a dangerous drug at any time and regardless of whether the student is on school property or at a school-related activity; this includes any admission or citation for drug or alcohol offenses on campus or off campus (including social media).

Consequences:

1st Offense – Suspension from competition for up to 15 days. Athlete must attend all practices.

2nd Offense – Suspension from competition for up to 30 days. Athlete must attend all practices.

3rd Offense – Removed from Athletics for the remainder of the school year.

Re-admittance into Athletics must be approved through the Athletic Director.

Felony Offense Disciplinary Action:

Any athlete found to be accused of a felony will be suspended from Athletics. This is not an assumption of guilt, but rather to provide the student-athlete with an opportunity to clear his/her name. Students will be reinstated when the case is either dismissed or found not guilty. If the student is found guilty the student will be removed from Athletics for the remainder of the school year. Re-admittance into athletics must be approved through the Athletic Director.

Any student suspended will not be allowed to travel or dress-out with team. All suspensions must be completed and may carry into the next sport and/or year.

Disclosure Policy - Disclosure enables an athlete to notify the head coach/athletic director of a Category A violation. By disclosing, the athlete's suspension may be reduced by one half. Disclosure should occur by the end of the next school day or prior to the next scheduled practice or contest. If disclosure does not occur within this time frame, then full suspension will be applied.

Category B Violations

Prohibited Conduct: Engaging in theft, destruction, or misuse of school district property · Failing to return school property as directed where the property is valued at more than \$50; · Engaging in fighting, hazing, harassment or bullying of others as defined by the Wharton ISD Student Code of Conduct · Buying, selling, giving, delivering, using, possessing, or being under the influence of tobacco · Maintaining or being identified on a website or blog that depicts behavior that is illegal · Sending, transmitting, or posting images or other material that is related to illegal activity · Engaging in conduct prohibited by the District's Student Code of Conduct that is punishable by placement in DAEP or expulsion · **Habitual Category C violations that result in multiple office referrals.**

Note: Students placed in DAEP are ineligible to participate in or attend extracurricular activities pursuant to Texas Education Code § 37.006(g).

Consequences:

1st Offense - Extra Conditioning / Loss of Playing Time

2nd Offense - Extra Conditioning / Loss of Playing Time / Possible suspension from the team

3rd Offense - Extra Conditioning / Loss of Playing Time / Possible suspension from the team /
Possible removal from the Athletic Program

Category C Violations

Prohibited Conduct: · Excessive tardies to games, meetings, practices, and/or other events without permission from the coach · Being absent from games, meetings, practices, and/or other events without permission coach · Engaging in acts of poor sportsmanship, such as cheating, using profane language, or taunting other participants · Being insubordinate to a coach or sponsor · Being disruptive during a game, meeting, practice, and/or other event · Failing to return school district property as directed where the property is valued at \$50 or less · Violating the established rules or guidelines of a specific extracurricular activity in which the student participates · Violating the District's standards for dress and grooming or the standards set for the specific extracurricular activity, and engaging in general misconduct prohibited by the District's Student Code of Conduct.

Consequences:

Each coach or sponsor will assign consequences for Category C violations.

RULES REGARDING SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

1. Student-athletes may not post any online pictures, information or other content that might cause embarrassment to themselves, fellow student-athletes, teams, coaches, the Athletics Department or the school district (examples: obscene images or language, pictures at parties with alcohol, references to drugs or sex).

2. Student-athletes may not post any content online that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening toward any other individual or entity (examples: derogatory comments regarding another school; taunting comments aimed at a student-athlete, coach or team at Wharton ISD or any other school). No posts should depict or encourage unacceptable or illegal activities (examples: hazing, sexual harassment/assault, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, underage drinking, or illegal drug use).

Inappropriate conduct while using Social Network could result in the following:

1st Offense - Extra Conditioning / Loss of Playing Time

2nd Offense - Extra Conditioning / Loss of Playing Time / Possible suspension from their team

3rd Offense - Extra Conditioning / Loss of Playing Time / Possible suspension from their team /

Possible removal from the Athletic Program

ISS/OSS

While in ISS (In-School Suspension) or OSS (out-of-school suspension) the athlete is required to attend all practices. Students are ineligible for competition while serving an ISS/OSS assignment until the end of the last school day of the suspension.

Below are consequences for receiving an ISS assignment:

1 day assignment- Extra Conditioning

2 to 3 day assignment- Extra Conditioning / Loss of playing time

4 to 5 day assignment- Suspension from a minimum of one contest plus Extra Conditioning.

* After five referrals that resulted in an ISS/OSS assignment, the athlete will be placed on a probationary contract and will have to meet with the Athletic Director and Head Coach of sport.

ACADEMICS

Athletes must realize that they are students first. Athletes must prioritize their schedule so that they can give sufficient time and energy to their Academic classes to ensure acceptable grades. Athletes must be passing all subjects at the six weeks grading period in order to be eligible to play. Athletes failing a course will be ineligible for competition for three weeks. They may regain eligibility after three weeks if they are passing all subjects at that time. If not, they remain ineligible for another three weeks. Athletes that habitually earn failing grades on grade reports and/or progress reports become a detriment to the athletic program. They are showing neglect in their responsibility and obligation to their team and the athletic program. They are also neglecting their main purpose for attending school. Athletes are encouraged to maintain all their grades throughout the school year. Tutorials are available for students that are struggling with their grades. Athletes are encouraged to take advantage of the tutorials and/or other resources that are available to help them with their grades. **Any athlete who fails two six weeks grading periods in a row will be placed on academic probation. Any athlete on academic probation that fails another six weeks could be removed from the Athletic Program.**

ATTENDANCE

It is the obligation and responsibility of team members to attend scheduled practices, contests, and meetings regularly and on time. If an unavoidable conflict arises with a practice or contest, one of the coaches should be notified before the workout or game. Failure to make contact prior to the practice, contest, or meeting may result in absence being considered unexcused.

Excused Absences from practice or contest:

Excused absences will be made up. The make up for an excused absence is not punishment but is administered so that the athlete can make up missed work and conditioning. Examples of excused absences are illness, a death in the family, school sponsored activities, or emergency situations. Athletes should understand that when they have to miss, it is imperative that a coach be notified prior to the absence. Most of the head coaches will share their phone numbers with the athlete so that the athlete can contact them directly. The High School Athletic number is **979-488-4849**. Junior high athletes or parents may call the Junior High at **979-532-6848** and talk with a coach or leave a message with the office. An email to the sport specific coach will suffice if the notification is prior to the absence. Athletes should understand that habitual absences, even though they may be excused, become detrimental to their ability to perform and to their knowledge of team concepts. Habitual absences could result in disciplinary actions, including loss of playing time and/or possible suspension or dismissal from the team.

Unexcused Absences:

Athletes and parents should understand that failure to notify the coach prior to an absence will usually result in the absence being considered unexcused. Some extenuating situations will be considered an excused absence without prior notification. If there is a question as to whether it is excused or not, the head coach and/or athletic director will make the decision. Unexcused absences will be made up and disciplinary action will be taken. Unexcused absences will accumulate on a per sport/per season basis. At the athletic director's discretion, a student that misses "two-a-days" from August 1st -August 22nd because of extenuating circumstances can be allowed into a program if the athlete chooses to complete the makeup work.

Disciplinary action for **unexcused absences from practice** will be as follows:

1st -5th unexcused absence – athlete will complete sport specific make up work/disciplinary exercise designated by the head coach of their sport. Suspension from contest is possible if player is not actively completing makeup/discipline. Athletes and parents should understand that a loss of playing time could occur because of missed preparation time for that contest. This is in the best interest of the student's safety and the well-being of the program.

After the **6th absence** the athlete will be placed on a probationary contract. Violating the conditions of this contract could include dismissal from the sport.

Disciplinary action for **unexcused absences from contest** will be as follows:

Athlete will be placed on a probationary contract and discipline/make up will be designated by the head coach of that sport and the athletic director. Violating the conditions of this contract could include dismissal from the sport. At the athletic director's discretion, a student that misses "two-a-days" because of extenuating circumstances can be allowed into a program if the athlete chooses to complete the makeup work.

PROMPTNESS

Always be on time to class, practice, games, etc. When we travel, the bus will not wait. After the athletic period bell rings or after-school bell rings, you do not have time to waste. Get directly to the locker room or designated area.

INJURED ATHLETES

All athletic injuries should be reported to the coach or athletic trainer immediately. An accident report must be completed regarding any injury that requires medical attention. Injured athletes who cannot actively participate in the workout must still follow all the attendance policies. Being injured is not an excuse to miss practice. The injured athlete will be expected to dress out and participate mentally. This is also a time in which they may see the Athletic Trainer for treatment. (Some injuries may not allow the athlete to dress out or attend practice. If there is a question, the head coach will make the decision on the athlete dressing out or attending the workout). If an athlete is injured, it is their responsibility to attend morning treatments. If the athlete fails to show up for their treatment

they may be required to participate in the daily workout. All athletic injuries should be reported to the coach or athletic trainer immediately. An accident report must be completed regarding any injury that requires medical attention.

HEALTH AND INSURANCE INFORMATION

Physical exams are required for all incoming 7th - 11th grade athletes each year. Physicals for all athletes must be current and on file with the athletic department before an athlete is allowed to participate in any practice or competition. If an injury occurs while participating in athletics for WISD, the athlete is expected to make sure their coach is aware of the injury and notify our trainer to make arrangements for an evaluation unless an emergency situation exists. All athletes are expected to attend injury treatments as set up by the head athletic trainer or coaching staff. If it is necessary for an athlete to be seen by a doctor, the Athletic Trainer will make his/her suggestion and help arrange an appointment based on the type of injury. WISD provides supplemental insurance through the athletic department. Coverage of this policy goes into effect after the athlete's primary care insurance provider files their claim. Claims on school supplemental insurance cover only claims that are usual and customary.

DRESS / PERSONAL APPEARANCE

Your status as a member of our athletic program requires that you look sharp in uniform and out of uniform. Everyone will wear his or her uniform in the same manner. We are not individuals. All uniforms should consist of the school colors of royal blue, red, and white. Accent colors of black, and gray are permissible. Take care of the equipment issued to you as if it were your own. Do not wear jewelry in practice. Your appearance away from the field or court, especially at school, should reflect the same pride that you show in our program and must adhere to the Student Dress Code. Remember, for many people perception is reality.

CARE OF EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

You will be issued practice and game equipment. You are responsible for that equipment, and if it is lost or stolen you will be responsible for paying for the equipment. You are to hang your equipment in your locker as directed. Do not track mud and dirt into the dressing room. Take off cleated shoes before entering the field house area. All trash will be thrown in the trashcan. Clean up in and around your locker each day. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in disciplinary action. School equipment must be turned in within a reasonable time after the season is complete. Failure to do so will result in fines and/or disciplinary action. **IT IS NOT PERMITTED TO WEAR PRACTICE CLOTHING ANYWHERE OTHER THAN PRACTICE.**

TEAM TRAVEL

All athletes must travel with the team. No student may be allowed to drive himself to the site of the contest. All athletes must return with the team unless the student is released to parents. All varsity athletes are required to travel to and from contests with the team. At the athletic director/head coach's discretion an exception can be made in case of an emergency. Persons not employed by or enrolled in the school system may not travel on the bus or room with the players while on athletic trips. No athlete may leave the team with anyone other than the parent. **All overnight trips must be approved by Administration and have appropriate supervision as required by sport.**

CLUB SPORTS/SELECT TEAMS

Club sports or select teams should not interfere with any practice or contest of Wharton athletics. It is not acceptable for an athlete to miss, arrive late, or leave early from a practice or contest for a club sport or select team. If an absence from practice does occur, then it is an unexcused absence. If an athlete misses a contest for a club sport or select team, then a one game suspension could be applied by the head coach of that sport, in addition to counting as an unexcused absence. Any further contest absences will result in a more severe penalty, up to and including dismissal.

PARTICIPATION PRE-REQUISITE

In order to participate in any UIL sanctioned sport, a student must be in the athletic period. Unavoidable academic conflict is the only exception. A student may be denied the opportunity to participate in a sport due to failure to enroll in the athletic period or non- participation in a sport the previous year. This determination will be left at the discretion of the Athletic Director and/or Head Coach of that sport.

LETTER JACKETS

Participant must have completed the season as a Varsity member in good standing and meet UIL requirements to be eligible for consideration. Each athlete who letters for the first time will be given one letter jacket per high school career. Any lost or damaged jackets will be replaced at the cost of the athlete. Additional patches, besides the letter itself, will be purchased by the athlete. For an athletic trainer or manager to earn a letter jacket, they must assist in two sports within the same school year. They must attend all practices and competitions that are assigned by the head coach of that sport and finish each sport in good standing.

QUITTING/DISMISSAL FROM PROGRAM

1. Student must bring a note from parents stating that they are aware of his or her intentions and its implications.
2. A student forfeits his or her right to participate in that sport and will not be able to participate in another sport until the regular season is over.
3. If the head coach is in agreement that an athlete be released from his or her sport, there will be no penalty assessed.
4. There will be a one-week "grace" period from the day the athlete begins the sport. (If an athlete chooses to quit during this period, there would be no penalty.)
5. If an athlete is participating in two or more sports at one time and is released by the head coach of one sport, the athlete may continue to participate in the other sport.

*** An athlete that has quit or has been dismissed from a sport will not be permitted to participate in another sport's contest, until he/she has run two (2) miles per practice for ten consecutive practices or 20 miles.**

*** If an athlete is participating in two or more sports at one time and quits one sport without release from head coach, he or she will not be allowed to participate in the other sport until he/she has run two (2) miles per practice for ten consecutive practices or 20 miles.**

TEN COMMANDMENTS OF CHAMPIONSHIP ATHLETIC PARENTS

1. Be positive with your son/daughter. Let them know they are accomplishing something by simply being part of the team.
2. Do not offer excuses or place blame if your son/daughter is not playing. Be supportive and encourage them to work hard and do their best. Assure your child that their role is extremely important to the team.
3. Do not criticize the coaches in front of students. Coaches, like parents, represent authority; they are teachers charged with responsibility of education in a complex society. Continual parental criticism creates doubt in the mind of the athlete and can render the coaches ineffective. As a result, the athlete becomes a complainer.
4. Encourage your son/daughter to live an athletic life off the field of play. An athlete must have proper rest and diet to be effective mentally and physically.
5. Insist on good grades. If an athlete is not passing, he/she cannot play. We want an athlete to be a successful person, not just a successful athlete.
6. Athletics are for the students, let them play! Do not show animosity or jealousy toward any of your child's teammates. This type of envy can rub off on your child and have an adverse effect on him/her and the team. Remember, it is amazing what can be accomplished when no one cares who gets the credit!
7. Allow the coaches to coach. They work with the athletes daily and know the individual abilities of each participant. They are professionals and have been trained to coach. **PLAYING TIME IS NOT A TOPIC FOR DEBATE.**
8. Understand the athletic pyramid. The further one advances in athletics, the more difficult it becomes to be successful. Being a little league all-star does not ensure success at the high school level. Each level becomes more demanding and requires more parental support and understanding.
9. Your successes or a sibling's successes, do not constitute guaranteed success for all family members. Each child is an individual, unique, like no other before or after. Comparisons, although inevitable, should be avoided at all costs.
10. Take great pride in being part of the **WHARTON TIGER FAMILY**. It means so much for our student/athletes to see their families and friends supporting them at contests.