



Silsbee Independent School District

Athletic Handbook

2018-2019

Mission Statement

Athletics are a vastly important part of any educational process. Education and athletics are not separate from one another, but co-exist and enhance each other. Both must conform to the values and ethics of the school.

The athletes at our school are in a unique position. He or she is part of a team and must learn to work and function effectively with a wide variety of personalities. They will represent our school and community in very visible roles, and we will always encourage them to conduct themselves with character, poise, honesty, integrity and humility. They will learn that dedication, sacrifice, hard work, and perseverance are necessary in performing any task that will lead to the attainment of a valued goal or life objective.

The athletic program provides these activities based on the needs of participants. These activities promote the respect for rules and authority, opportunities for physical excellence, and an understanding of the value of cooperation and competition through practice and interscholastic games.

Individual sports in the athletic program will begin and end on the dates specified in the Constitution and Contest Rules of the University Interscholastic League. Winning within the spirit of the rules is of prime importance as an objective of the athletic program and necessitates that every participant understands and complies with the rules of the University Interscholastic League.

Athletic Philosophy

In the Silsbee Independent School District, the program of competitive athletics should be comprehensive, diversified, and flexible to meet the individual needs, interests, and abilities of our athletes. It should comprise an integral and vital part of our district's total educational program. Whenever and wherever athletics are planned or played, it is mandatory that definite rules, regulations, and procedures be developed and implemented for the proper conduct of these activities. It is also essential that these procedures be commensurate with school district policies and in accordance with the accepted and established philosophy of education that prevails in the district. It is with full consideration and recognition of the important role that competitive athletics should have in the total school curriculum that this handbook has been developed.

The athletic department believes that each student should be given a fair chance to participate in competitive athletics according to his own individual and personal choices. However, we also believe that all athletes should be encouraged and motivated by coaches to participate in a variety of activities in accordance with their interests, needs and abilities.

There is no philosophy of "win at any cost" in the Silsbee Independent School District. This is not to mean that there is no emphasis put on winning. Winning is the American way of life, it is the measure of success in any endeavor. Athletics instills the desire to win, to attain personal goals which insure team effort, character, responsibility and **TIGER PRIDE!**

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Requirements for Participation

Academic Eligibility

A student in grades 9-12 may participate in extracurricular activities on or off campus at the beginning of the school year only if the student has earned the cumulative number in state-approved courses:

1. Beginning the ninth grade year – must have been promoted from the eighth to the ninth.
2. Beginning the tenth grade year – must have at least 5 credits towards graduation.
3. Beginning the eleventh grade year – must have at least 10 credits towards graduation or during the preceding 12 months, he/she must have earned 5 credits.
4. Beginning the twelfth grade year – must have 15 credits towards graduation or during the preceding 12 months, he/she has earned 5 credits.

A student participating in University Interscholastic League (UIL) activities will be suspended from participation in games after a grading period in which the student received a grade lower than a 70 on a scale of 100 in any academic class (other than an identified honors or advanced class). This suspension continues for three weeks. At the next grading period, the suspension will be removed after the student is passing all classes with a grade equal to or greater than 70.

Athletic Department Forms Packet

This packet includes

1. UIL Acknowledgement of Rules,
2. General Information and Eligibility Rules,
3. UIL Parent and Student Agreement/Acknowledgement,
4. SISD Athletic Handbook,
5. Emergency Form,
6. Medical History Form, and
7. Physical Examination Form.

The packet should be filled out completely! Do not leave any requested information blank.

Physical Examinations

All athletes must have a completed physical exam form on file before participating in the athletic program. (All incoming 7th, 9th, and 11th graders must take a physical for that year.) If a student sustained a serious injury, which required surgery or removal

from participation, the student will need to take a physical examination prior to participation. The physical examination forms are available from the coaches or the Athletic Trainer.

SISD Athletic Handbook

The student athlete and the parent/guardian should sign the Handbook Acknowledgement Form which is provided in the Athletic Department Forms Packet. This confirms receipt of the Athletic Handbook and acknowledges that the student athlete and parent/guardian will comply with the rules and policies in the Athletic Handbook.

General Policies and Procedures

Academic Requirements

All UIL and school board guidelines will be followed for academic and eligibility requirements.

Assignments

A student that misses class due to extracurricular activities is expected to pick up work missed prior to leaving for the activity. The student will be expected to join class and participate in any assignment or activity upon returning.

Attendance

Students must be in attendance through at least the state designated attendance period in order to participate in a scheduled contest or event. Students who are absent from school the entire day of the scheduled contest or event may not participate.

If a student receives an excused absence and is still considered in attendance for the day, as described in the Student Handbook under "EXCUSED ABSENCES", the student may participate in the contest or event.

If the student is sent home for an illness or is at the doctor's office for any reason the student must present a doctor's release to the administrator on duty prior to participation in the contest or event. If no administrator on duty is present the coach or sponsor will accept the documentation. Otherwise, students must establish attendance during the school day as described above in order to participate.

(The principal has the right to override the Attendance guidelines if extenuating circumstances exist.)

Awards

Requirements for lettering in all sports are as follows:

1. Must complete season in good standing as a member of the team. The exception to this rule would be the athlete who is injured before fulfilling all the requirements and who in the judgment of the head coach, would have fulfilled all the requirements.
2. In the judgment of the head coach, the athlete has significantly contributed to the success of the program.

Citizenship

1. Athletes are expected to follow all rules and policies of the Silsbee I.S.D. at all school functions.
2. Athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a positive manner at all times.

Club Sports

A club sport is a sports program outside the school that is not affiliated with U.I.L. athletics. We are very fortunate to live in a community where the high school can be the main focus. We feel our athletes' obligations are to their school team first. We will not excuse our athletes to miss a school contest or practice for a club event. If an athlete pursues club participation he/she must:

1. Contact all head coaches of sports at the school in which he/she is participating.
2. Be willing to assume the consequences related to their status on the squad as a starter, 2nd string, or even dismissal if a conflict occurs.

Coaches' Rules

Coaches may establish additional rules and regulations with the approval of the Athletic Director for their respective sports. The rules pertaining to a particular sport must be explained in writing prior to their start of the season. The coach shall administer penalties for violation of team rules. Copies of all team rules will be kept on file in the Athletic Director's office.

DAEP Assignments

Students are not allowed to participate in any extracurricular activities, including practices, while they are assigned to P.A.C.E.S. When a student completes the P.A.C.E.S. assignment, reinstatement into extracurricular activities will be determined by the coach/sponsor of the sport/activity.

Discipline

Any athlete refusing to accept punishment for any discipline problems may be dismissed from the athletic program and forfeit all athletic awards and recognition for the school year.

The use of alcohol, drugs, and felony offenses will be handled as follows:

1. Misdemeanor offenses with alcohol and drugs. First offense: Athlete will be given a 20% game suspension. (Tournament games not included). Second offense: Athlete will be suspended for one calendar year from all sports.
2. Felony Offenses: See S.I.S.D. Code of Conduct.

Dismissal from an Athletic Team or Program

An athlete may be suspended by the Athletic Director or the head coach of that sport for:

1. A serious violation of existing athletic or Silsbee I.S.D. policies and rules.
2. An accumulation of minor violations of athletic or Silsbee I.S.D. policies and rules.
3. Any student that is assigned to an athletic period, but is not participating in athletics, will be removed from the athletic period.
4. Any athlete who quits a sport will not be allowed to participate in another sport until the regular season of the sport the athlete quit is completed. Quitting will be defined as still being part of that team the Monday of the first contest. (The athletic program does not want to discourage students from attempting to practice in a sport. This will allow a student to practice and determine if they want to be a part of that sport without penalties being assessed.)

Dress Code

Students must, at a minimum, follow the dress code established by the campus.

Coaches/sponsors have the right to enact more stringent dress codes.

Equipment and Lockers Rooms

1. All equipment issued by the school to the athlete must be returned by the athlete at the conclusion of each sport.
2. All equipment that is lost or not returned will be paid for by the athlete.
3. Athletes are responsible to keep locker rooms clean and organized.
4. Vandalism or theft will not be tolerated at any time!

Ejection/ and or Fighting

Any student athlete ejected from a contest may be subject to suspension and or removal from the team. All incidents will be reviewed by the Head Coach, Athletic Director, and Principal.

Fans/Parents

UIL Parent Handbook can be found at

http://www.uilTEXAS.org/files/athletics/manuals/Parent_Info_Manual_15-16.pdf

1. 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.
2. Game officials can ask that school administrators have unruly fans removed from a contest facility.
3. There is no such thing as a “right” to attend interscholastic athletics. Interscholastic athletics are considered a “privilege” and the spectator who avails themselves of it is expected to conduct himself or herself accordingly.
4. 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.
5. The school is responsible for the behavior of their spectators. The school district can be and will be punished for actions of patrons in violation of UIL standards and rules.

Hazing

Hazing of students will not be tolerated. Students caught hazing may be removed from all extracurricular activities.

Injuries

All injuries must be reported to the coach in charge of that sport in order to be treated and/or referred for further medical assistance. Injuries should be reported as soon as they occur.

Insurance

Students who participate in athletic activities will be provided supplemental insurance purchased by the school district. This policy acts as a primary policy only if the athlete has no other form of insurance.

Listed below are two (2) scenarios that parent and/or guardian may find themselves in when their child is hurt during an athletic event and must follow in order to qualify for our “excess” coverage.

Scenario 1

1. All injuries must be reported and documented by the coach of that sport and Athletic Trainer.
2. Injury must have resulted during a sanctioned practice or competition under the supervision of a coach.
3. Parents and/or guardian must fill out a claim form within 90 days of injury. Claim form must be mailed with supporting documentation to the insurance company.
4. A copy of the claim form must be kept on file with the Athletic Trainer.
5. This is secondary coverage. Please be aware that the “excess” coverage may not cover the entire remaining balance. Any balances due after the insurance companies have paid is the sole responsibility of the parent or guardian.

Scenario 2

1. All injuries must be reported and documented by coach of that sport and Athletic Trainer.
2. Injury must have resulted during a sanctioned practice or competition under the supervision of a coach.
3. Parents and/or guardian must fill out a claim form within 90 days of injury. Claim form must be mailed with supporting documentation to the insurance company.
4. A copy of the claim form must be kept on file with the Athletic Trainer.
5. Insurance company will become primary and pay on reasonable and customary charges (up to limits of policy) on any athletic-related injury. Please be aware that any remaining balances due after the insurance has paid is the sole responsibility of the parent or guardian.

ISS Assignments

An athlete assigned to in-school suspension will have his/her future participation in athletics reviewed by the coach, principal, and athletic director, and appropriate action (including extra conditioning or possible suspension from athletic contest) will be taken.

Penalties

The UIL Legislative Council strengthened penalties for player ejections. Section 1208 (i) of the UIL C&CR now includes a minimum suspension for any player ejected from a contest.

Football: Ejected players miss the rest of the game from which they were ejected plus the first half of the next game.

Other Sports: Ejected player misses the rest of the game from which they were ejected plus all of the following game.

Soccer Exception: This section does not alter the current point penalty for soccer player ejections. Soccer will continue to use the point structure as required by NFHS soccer playing rules.

Picking Up Students After Events

Parents/Guardians should make arrangements for their children to be picked up from the campus following after-hours activities. Coaches/sponsors will make sure that students and parents know times of events so that proper arrangements can be made to ensure that students are not waiting for extended amounts of time to be picked up following activities.

Practice, Game and Team Guidelines

1. Athletes are expected to be at every practice and on time.
2. If practice is missed, athletes are expected to notify the coach of their sport in advance.
3. All absences from practice will be made up. (extra conditioning at the discretion of the head coach)
4. Athletes will not be cut from participating in athletics.
5. Athletes will travel to and from every athletic event with their team unless their parent/guardian has given consent for their child to ride home with them after that contest. This consent must be given to the coach in charge of that team by the parent/guardian at the conclusion of that contest.

Profanity

Profanity will not be tolerated. Disciplinary action will be taken.

Quitting a Sport

1. It is expected of our student athletes that if he/she begins a sport, that sport will be completed by the student athlete.
2. If a student athlete begins a sport and then quits, participation in another sport will not be allowed until the season of the previous sport has ended (This includes practicing with the next sport.).
3. Grace Periods:
Seven (7) calendar days – for a sport that overlaps with another sport (i.e. basketball in-season in relationship to the beginning of soccer season)
Ten (10) calendar days – for a sport that is started and not “transferring” from a previous sport.

4. The athletic director and the head coaches of the sports involved will reserve the right to override this rule.

Respect

Disrespect to coaches, teachers, or administrators will not be tolerated. Disciplinary action will be taken and could result in dismissal from the team.

Showing Disrespect or Embarrassing Behavior While Representing School

Any disrespectful behavior or behavior that embarrasses the school in any fashion will not be tolerated when students are representing Silsbee ISD at any event. Students who are disrespectful or embarrass the school while representing the school will face consequences appropriate to their actions. Removal from extracurricular activities may be warranted.

Social Media

We will teach everyone in our program how to properly address and answer media questions. Always remember that you represent all of us in these situations and choose your words accordingly. Be unselfish, handle criticism professionally, and portray our team in a way you would be proud of.

Social Media Policies

Social media has changed the way we do everything, including sports. It is a platform that can be used positively or negatively, below are the program guidelines and consequences for social media use in regards to our team. These can be adapted at coach and administration discretion.

1. Only post information concerning our coaches, players, and any other member of our team in a positive fashion. Any comments that are deemed degrading or inappropriate toward any member of our team will be dealt with according to individual case.
2. Any posting of pictures in an inappropriate fashion will be dealt with in most serious fashion.
3. Videos posted will be ONLY of game, practices, or other competition settings!
4. Players may not post to social media during any game, competition, or practice setting.
5. Absolutely no photos or videos in locker room settings! Do not have your phone out while in locker room!
6. Anything that is posted depicting or implying bullying, violence, sexual harassment, hazing, under-age drinking, and possession/use/sale of illegal substances will be dealt with severely.

7. Remember that what you put out there is out there and can't be taken back. Use discretion when putting your thoughts, photos, and videos out there for the world to see. It can impact your future!

Consequences

Each case will be dealt with on an individual basis according to severity of actions.

Potential consequences may include:

Suspension from games or practices

Extra conditioning

Removal from the team

Legal action 12

Theft

Taking things that do not belong to you, especially from your teammates will not be tolerated. A player caught may be dismissed from the team. We ask that you do not bring valuables or large sums of money to the dressing room. **Lock your lockers at all times!**

Tutorials

Students participating in extracurricular events will be required to attend tutorials if grades drop below 75 in any classes. They will attend the tutorials until the next grade reporting period (progress report or report card) and will only be released from tutorials if all grades are above 75.

Alcohol and Drug Use

(Remember, these are the minimum consequences. Some extracurricular activities may have more stringent consequences than are listed here, including immediate removal from the team/club/organization/squad.)

On Campus Possession/Use of Alcohol or Illegal Drugs

The use of alcohol and/or illegal drugs will not be condoned. Students who possess or use alcohol or drugs on campus or while at a school sponsored activity will be disciplined in the following manner:

Possession of Alcohol or Salvia:

1st Offense: 45 day PACES assignment, with no participation in extracurricular activities during PACES assignment.

2nd Offense: 45 day PACES assignment, with removal from extracurricular activities for remainder of school year.

Use or Under Influence of Alcohol or Salvia:

1st Offense: 90 day PACES assignment, with no participation in extracurricular activities during PACES assignment.

2nd Offense: 180 day PACES assignment, with no participation in extracurricular activities during PACES assignment.

Possession, Use or Under Influence of Drugs or K2:

1st Offense: 180 PACES assignment, with no participation in extracurricular activities during PACES assignment.

2nd Offense: 180 day expulsion to JJAEP, with no participation in extracurricular activities for remainder of time on campus. 13

Off Campus Possession/Use of Alcohol

The use of alcohol will not be condoned. Students who are issued a citation for Minor in Possession, Driving while Intoxicated, or Under the Influence, while off campus and not at a school sponsored activity, at a minimum will receive:

1st Offense: 20 percent game suspension for athletes.

2nd Offense: Removal from extracurricular activities for remainder of year.

3rd Offense: Removal from extracurricular activities for remainder of time on that campus.

Each case will be considered individually to determine if further consequences should be administered.

Off Campus Misdemeanor Possession/Use of Illegal Drugs

Students who arrested or charged with a Misdemeanor Possession or Under the Influence of an illegal drug, while off campus and not at a school sponsored activity, at a minimum will receive:

1st Offense: 20 percent game suspension.

2nd Offense: Removal from extracurricular activities for remainder of year.

3rd Offense: Removal from extracurricular activities for remainder of time on that campus.

Each case will be considered individually to determine if further consequences should be administered.

Off Campus Felony Possession/Use of Illegal Drugs

The possession/use of illegal drugs will not be condoned. Students who are arrested or charged with Felony Possession of or Under the Influence of an illegal drug while off campus and not at a school sponsored activity, at a minimum will receive:

1st Offense: 180 PACES assignment, with no participation in extracurricular activities during PACES assignment.

2nd Offense: 180 day expulsion to JJAEP, with no participation in extracurricular activities for remainder of time on campus.

Each case will be considered individually to determine if further consequences should be administered. 14

Silsbee ISD Athletic Handbook Receipt

(Please refer to Silsbee ISD Athletic Website)

- I have read and understand the requirements of this athletic handbook.
- I understand that I am expected to perform according to this handbook and that there may be sanctions or penalties if I do not.
- I understand that student athletes may be assigned extra conditioning, suspended, or removed from athletics for not following rules and expectations set forth by Silsbee ISD.
- I understand that my child's participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right, and that my child will be held to higher standards of behavior and performance in and out of school
- I understand that Silsbee ISD can remove spectators from the premises and can prohibit them from attending future contests due to undesirable behaviors.
- I understand that Silsbee ISD is responsible for the behavior of their spectators. The school district can be and will be punished for actions of patrons in violation of UIL standards and rules.

Student/Athlete Name (printed) _____

Student/Athlete Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____