

**2018-2019**

**BUSHLAND**



**ATHLETIC POLICY**

# BUSHLAND ISD ATHLETIC POLICY

## PHILOSOPHY

The primary purpose of the Athletic Program in the Bushland Independent School District is to promote the physical, mental, social, emotional, and moral well-being of the participants. It is hoped that Athletics will be a positive force in preparing student-athletes for an enriching, vital role as a citizen in the United States.

The Athletic Program is an important and integral part of the total school program and is open to participation by all students. Through voluntary participation, the athlete gives time, energy, and loyalty to the program. He/she also accepts the training rules, regulations, and responsibilities that are unique to the Athletic Program. In order to contribute to the welfare of the team, the athlete must be willing to accept these obligations.

## PARTICIPATION

In order for an athlete to compete in an athletic program they must be enrolled in the athletic program with the following exceptions:

1. Athletes that only participates in wrestling, golf, run cross-country, or if an athlete only participates in a spring sport.
2. **Only fourth-year seniors** who must take a course needed for graduation, during the athletic period, may do so. This will only be done for required courses and only if there are no other options. **An athlete attending Bushland I.S.D. in the spring must participate in the off-season program to play a fall team sport the following year. Fall sports are identified as Volleyball, Football, Basketball.**
3. **If an athlete does not participate fully in any team sport within the year they will not be allowed back into athletics. Athletics is not a PE class or off-season, it requires participation.**

## ACADEMICS

Bushland athletes are in school first to work toward an education. We feel athletics have a great deal to provide toward the total education, but academic subjects are the top priority. If we arrange our priorities in the proper order, the student will gain a maximum benefit from his/her school experience. The correct order of priorities is:

1. Academics
2. Athletics
3. In-school social activities

If we establish these priorities we will never have to concern ourselves with the next statement: To be eligible to participate in athletics, you must pass **every** class in a six –weeks grading period. Ineligible athletes may regain their eligibility at the end of the three weeks if they are passing every class at that time. These are all UIL requirements. **An athlete will be expected to practice during a period of ineligibility.** Traveling with the team is prohibited by UIL when a student is ineligible. **If an athlete does not get 5 credits they might not be allowed to re-enter athletics until they complete an entire semester.**

- A student on game day or day of meet that is not in attendance at least 4 periods of the day must have a doctor's note to be eligible to participate that day.

## **ATHLETIC PERIOD**

The primary purpose of the athletic period is dedicated towards strength and conditioning and practices for team sports. Team sports are identified as Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball and Softball. Incoming freshman athletes, and new students must participate in Volleyball, Football, or Basketball to be enrolled into the athletic period. All straight Spring and individual sports will work before and after school.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Rules Regarding Social Networking Sites:

Participation in BISD Athletics is a privilege and not a right. As a condition of being a student-athlete in BISD, student-athletes must abide by the following rules related to the use of the internet and social networking sites:

1. Any postings or communications via social networking websites which disrupt either the educational or athletic environments or which advocates the violation of any school or team policy would be unacceptable.
2. Student-athletes may not post online any pictures, information or other content that might cause embarrassment to themselves, fellow student-athletes, teams, coaches, the Athletics Department or the campus (examples: obscene images or language, nudity, pictures at parties with alcohol, references to drugs, sex, or illegal activities).
3. Student-athletes may not post any content online that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening toward any other individual, teammate, coach, faculty member, or entity (examples: derogatory comments regarding another school; taunting comments aimed at a student-athlete, coach or team at another school). No posts should depict or encourage unacceptable or illegal activities (examples: hazing, sexual harassment/assault, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, underage drinking, illegal drug use).
4. Student-athletes may not post any content online that would constitute a violation of the BISD Student Code of Conduct.
5. Student-athletes may not post any information that is sensitive or personal in nature or is proprietary to the Athletic Department or the school which is not public information (examples: tentative or future team schedules, student-athlete injuries and eligibility status, travel plans/itineraries or information).
6. Student-athletes are required to abide by all laws related to the use of the internet (including state and federal privacy laws such as FERPA and HIPPA), and student-athletes are personally liable for any violations of those laws. Student-athletes in BISD are required to abide by rules set forth in these guidelines. The failure to do so will be considered a violation of the student-athlete code of conduct and/or the BISD student code of conduct.

The violation may result in disciplinary action by the athletics department and the campus.

1st Offense - Warning and parent meeting with the head coach. Consequences will be determined based on the severity of the infraction and may include suspension or dismissal from the team or athletic activities.

2nd Offense – Parent meeting with the head coach and the campus Athletic Coordinator. Consequences will be determined based on the severity of the infraction and may include suspension or dismissal from the team or athletic activities.

3rd Offense – Parent meeting with the head coach, campus Athletic Coordinator, and the district Athletic Director. Consequences will be determined based on the severity of the infraction and may include suspension or dismissal from the team or athletic activities.

## **TRAVEL**

All athletes participating in an athletic contest out of town will ride the bus/van provided. If there are extenuating circumstances, the student can be released from the bus ride only if accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. A form can be obtained from the coach prior to the contest. We request that athletes ride home with parents only on special occasions. This travel time will foster a sense of team unity.

Remember, athletes, when you travel as a team, you are representing your school, your coaches, your parents, and your community. You will expect to act with first-class behavior.

## **DRESS CODE**

Students should dress for trips following the Student Code of Conduct representing a first-class group. Facial hair, earrings for males, nose rings or studs for males and females, and all other regulations apply to athletic activities. No T-shirts, caps, etc., that relate to or advertise sex, drugs, or alcoholic beverages will be worn. Hair for boys must be fairly short, neat, and cannot touch the collar, and cannot cover the ears or be in eyes. This hair cannot be put up in a visible pony- tail or headband for males. Mohawks, mullets, and lines shaved in the head are not allowed. The dress code is in effect in both the in-season and offseason for an athlete. The AD will be the final ruling on whether a haircut is needed. The athlete will have 7 days to cut their hair before any disciplinary action will take place.

## **ATTENDANCE**

For our program to be successful, our student-athletes must be dependable people.

Attendance to practice is vital to improve skills that enable you to win. When there is an unavoidable situation call your coach as soon as possible. **All athletes need to call their coach if they are going to miss a workout or contest prior to the event.** Any athlete that misses a practice will not start in the next team contest. This will differ for individual sports (cross-country, track, and golf). This will be in effect if the absence is excused or unexcused.

Circumstances that caused the athlete to miss practice will be considered in determining the amount of playing time. If an athlete calls in prior to missing practice he/she will have minor conditioning make-up. If the athlete does not call in prior to missing practice he/she will have discipline make-up. Athletes that are not in attendance 90% can be removed from athletics for lack of attendance.

## **HONESTY**

Honest communication is a key to working together. Be honest with coaches, teammates, teachers, and anyone for that matter.

## **PLAYING TIME**

**Sub-varsity Philosophy** – We want to develop players first, but we still want to win. Every attempt will be made to provide all players with an opportunity to play.

**Varsity**-the team goal is to be competitive and win. The coach will do what he/she thinks is best and playing time is not guaranteed

Any athlete may be disciplined by loss of playing time

All questions about playing time need to be addressed to the Athletic Director.

## **DRESSING OUT**

All athletes will be expected to dress out on a daily basis. Athletes that who are injured will be required to attend practice and try to learn through seeing and listening. All athletes will be given lockers and a clean place to dress. **Valuables should be locked up for safekeeping.**

## **COLLEGE RECRUITMENT POLICY**

Some student-athletes may be given the opportunity to participate in college athletics if they show outstanding talent, maintain a high academic standard, and perform with first-class behavior. These are ingredients that all college recruiters are looking for in today's athlete.

Colleges and Universities decide whom they will recruit. Your high school coaches can only recommend. We will do all we can for those athletes who express a desire to play college athletics, but your performance in the three areas mentioned above will be the deciding factor.

As an athlete you will be expected to inform your coach if a college recruiter personally contacts you. It is the recruiter's obligation to work through your high school coach. This enables the coach to understand the situation and work to the athlete's best interest.

*Student-athletes must take ACT and SAT tests before their senior year. Every college recruiter must have these scores before any scholarship can be offered.*

## **MULTIPLE EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

A student-athlete who attempts to participate in many extra-curricular activities must communicate to coaches their intentions

We recognize that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extra-curricular activities, and to this end, we will attempt to schedule events in a manner so as to minimize conflicts. When conflicts do arise, the sponsors will get together and work out a solution so the student will not be caught in the middle.

## **SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL/ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PLACEMENT**

If an athlete is suspended from school for any reason, he/she will be ineligible for athletics the day of suspension. Suspension will also include AEP placement. Suspension will be treated as an unexcused absence. A third suspension during the same school year **will** result in total expulsion from athletics from the rest of the school year.

## **CLUB OR NON-SCHOOL SPORTS**

If an athlete chooses to participate in a club or non-school sport he/she must realize that this sport is an outside activity and not part of the Bushland athletic program. Therefore, no loss of UIL practice or game time will be allowed, to participate in club sports unless prior permission of the head coach of that sport has been granted.

## **IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION**

An athlete that is assigned to ALC or ISS, the absence during the athletic period will be considered unexcused and an athletic discipline make-up will occur. The athlete will still be eligible for the day's contest or practice. **Upon missing the athletic period for the fifth placement due to ISS assignment the athlete will serve a one-contest suspension on the next available date.** Every ISS placement after five will result in a one-contest suspension. The suspension will not be served on the day of placement, but the next contest to avoid punishing the team and to allow coaches time to make adjustments.

## **DISRESPECT TO TEACHERS, COACHES, OR OTHER SCHOOL PERSONNEL**

Any act of disrespect by an athlete to his/her teacher, coach, or other school personnel or administration will be handled aggressively by the athletic staff. Depending on the severity of the situation, the discipline may include expulsion from athletics. The Athletic Director must approve expulsion from athletics. The Athletic Director **will remove** an athlete for a calendar year for any severe and profane outbursts towards a coach

## **THEFT**

Taking things from other athletes, the school, etc. will not be tolerated. Law enforcement officers may be contacted and charges filed. The athlete may be suspended from athletics from the rest of the school year.

## **INJURIES**

Student-athletes must notify a coach of any injuries before leaving a practice or game. This can prevent minor injuries from becoming major injuries. If available the athletic trainer can assist the athlete in preventing and treating injuries.

## **INSURANCE**

Bushland ISD does purchase secondary accident insurance to cover injuries incurred by your child at school.

## **QUITTING**

Quitting violates the rule of "never giving up". There will be tough times in practice, in athletic contests, and life in general but we must never give up. A student is considered committed to the sport after the **first game has been played**. If an athlete decides to quit, he/she will be given a 24 hour cooling off period. If after that time, he/she still wishes to quit, he/she will forfeit their opportunity to letter in that sport for the school year. If an athlete quits a certain sport and desires to participate in another sport he/she must meet the requirements listed for re-entry.

## **EXPULSION**

The athletic philosophy will be based on full participation by all athletes. It is our desire to see every athlete succeed in athletics and life. There is a time that an athlete becomes a detriment to the team. Every effort will be given to save the athlete, but there is a time to remove the athlete from the program. The **TEAM** will always come before the individual.

## **DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES**

All discipline measures taken by coaches and administrators will be documented. This will provide documentation to show due process used by coaches and patterns of behavior displayed by the athlete. On the fifth minor offense or first major offense at least a one-week suspension will take place as well as a parent-athlete conference with the coach. The athlete will be placed on a "probationary" period for the rest of the current semester. If the athlete commits a major or minor offense during that period he/she will be dismissed from the athletic program for failing to comply.

## **RE-ENTRY TO ATHLETIC PROGRAM/QUITTING**

A suspension for alcohol and drugs will be upheld for the rest of the school year without reentry. An athlete that wishes to rejoin the athlete program must complete the following steps.

1. Inform the Athletic Director and appropriate coach of your intention.
2. An athlete that quits two sports in a school year will be removed from the Athletic Program for a calendar year. An athlete that quits one-sport cannot practice or participate in the next sport until that sport is fully finished, and has had a conference with both coaches.
3. After a major offense, the Superintendent, the Principal, and the Athletic Director must approve readmission to the program.

## **LETTERING POLICY**

An athlete can letter in athletics the following 2 ways

1. An athlete must have physically participated in half the varsity contests, and completely finished season in good standing.
2. An athlete will letter at the end of their junior year if they have participated in a sport for 3 consecutive seasons and finished all 3 seasons in good standing.

## ***MINOR OFFENSES***

The following offenses will be dealt with on an individual basis by the head coach of each sport. Repeated violations of these rules may lead to the suspension or the dismissal of the participant.

- A. Excessive absences from workout
- B. Unexcused absence from workout (after 5 unexcused misses the athlete is removed from the sport.
- C. Tardiness
- D. Profanity
- E. Misconduct in class
- F. Inappropriate dress, hair or jewelry
- G. Inappropriate conduct at a school sponsored activity
- H. Equipment damage, misuse, or the loss of equipment
- I. Unsportsmanlike conduct-may result in suspension
- J. Conduct unbecoming of a team player- may result in suspension

## ***MAJOR OFFENSES***

The following offenses will result in a two-week suspension for the first offense and dismissal from the program for the second offense. Severe discipline incidents can lead to removal. The two-week period will begin when the student is notified. An Athletic Discipline form will be sent home to the parents. The dismissal will be for the rest of the school year. Any readmission to the program must be approved by the Superintendent, Principal, and Athletic Director.

Using or being in the presence of illegal drugs or illegally consumed alcohol is prohibited which includes but is not limited to MIP and DWI charges reported to the school by authorities.

- B. Using tobacco products are prohibited.
- C. Theft or malicious destruction of any school or individual's equipment or property.
- D. Violent or severe disrespect shown to school officials or other teammates. This could lead to removal from the athletic program.
- E. Any athlete charged with a felony crime will be suspended indefinitely until after their trial is over or as soon as they are cleared from wrongdoing. The athlete will be



allowed back in the program only if it is deemed to be in the best interest of the program or team.

**ATHLETIC DISCIPLINARY POLICY  
STUDENT / PARENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
2018-2019**

As an athlete at Bushland I.S.D., I am committed to maintaining a healthy lifestyle to enable proper physical and mental conditioning.

**I WILL NOT USE OR BE IN THE PRESENCE OF ILLEGAL DRUGS.**

**I WILL NOT USE OR BE IN THE PRESENCE OF ILLEGALLY CONSUMED ALCOHOL.**

**I WILL NOT USE TOBACCO PRODUCTS.**

**I UNDERSTAND THAT I AM AN ATHLETE 24 HOURS A DAY AND WILL ADHERE TO THE ATHLETIC POLICY AT ALL TIMES.**

**I PLEDGE TO DO MY BEST AND WORK THROUGH HARD TIMES, AND PUT THE TEAM AHEAD OF MYSELF**

**I PLEDGE THAT I WILL COMMUNICATE WITH MY COACHES IF I HAVE A PROBLEM OR IF I NEED HELP.**

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

As a parent or guardian, I have received a copy of the Athletic Policy. I will make every attempt to enable my child to adhere to this policy and succeed. Please sign below and return only the last page to your son or daughter's coach. You can keep the policy for your records.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_