

FREDERICKSBURG INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

(Revised January 2019)

Our Purpose

To help boys & girls become men and women of empathy and integrity who will lead, be responsible, and change the world for the good.

Mission Statement

To give each individual student athlete an opportunity to compete at the highest level possible and accept his or her role as a Battlin Billie while preparing each student athlete to excel in their faith, family, community, academics, and athletics.

Preamble

The Fredericksburg Independent School District provides an athletic program for the benefit of the students. Participation in a competitive athletic program provides students an opportunity to learn many things not available in the classroom. Athletes are encouraged to participate in every sport in which they have interest. Athletics is an extra-curricular activity and as such is a privilege, not a right, for any student choosing to accept the following guidelines and rigors of participation.

The following rules are more stringent than those set for the general student body. However, athletes are expected to accept and to follow the established rules. Violation of the rules will result in corrective and/or disciplinary action. All known facts and circumstances will be taken into consideration when determining what action will be taken. Students may be disciplined or dismissed from the athletic program for violation of these rules.

I. STATEMENT OF INTENT

- A. The intent is to establish as much uniformity as possible in the handling of the athletic guidelines in F.I.S.D.
- B. Each participating student athlete and his/her parents will be required to sign a statement indicating that he/she is aware of the guidelines before the student will be allowed to participate in a sport. (One signing a year is adequate.)
- C. The student athlete is responsible for following the Athletic Code, FISD Athletics Social Media Pledge, Substance Abuse Policy, and any UIL mandates as well.
- D. The coach will be required to implement these guidelines in a fair and consistent manner.
The coach must:
 1. Inform all athletes under his/her responsibility of these rules.
 2. Apply rules and punishment as fairly as possible following these guidelines.

II. GENERAL GUIDELINES

- A. Athletes represent Fredericksburg ISD and are expected to conduct themselves with dignity. Respect in the classroom toward fellow students and faculty is necessary as leaders of the school. Athletes are expected to act above and beyond the standards of conduct set for other students. Because of the prominent role of the athlete at FHS, his/her conduct must be beyond reproach at **all** times on or off campus.
- B. If an athlete starts a sport and quits, he/she will not be allowed to start a second sport until the original sport has concluded. Any exception to this rule must be appealed to the Athletic Director with both affected coaches and athlete present. If an athlete quits a sport a second time, it is final.
- C. On the second report of misconduct from a teacher or administrator, the athlete will be subject to disciplinary action by his/her coach. Any athlete placed in in-school suspension (ISS), out-of-school suspension (OSS), or alternative education placement (AEP) will be subject to further disciplinary action by the coach or Athletic Director and will not participate in any UIL contests while serving their detention in ISS, OSS, or AEP.
- D. Athletes are expected to maintain a **positive attitude** and good conduct during off-season athletic periods. If the attitude and conduct of the athlete becomes detrimental to the "good of all", the athlete may be dismissed. Dismissal of this type will be considered the same as "quitting" a team.
- E. Students wishing to be in and remain in athletics must adhere to these guidelines in the community, in the classroom, in a school vehicle, at all school sponsored activities, as well as on the field of play.
- F. **Student athletes' grades** will be monitored throughout the year. Student athletes must show that they will consistently maintain their grades and eligibility to remain in athletics.

G. **Excused absences or tardies** will be for those who have personally called, notified in writing, or spoken to a coach prior to the absence or tardy. Absences and tardies will be made up with unexcused absences or tardies requiring more make-up than excused. Exceptions are deaths in the family and unforeseen emergencies. The Athletic Director and head coach will review these.

H. **Suspensions and detentions** will be treated as unexcused absences.

I. **Any athlete found guilty, charged, arrested, detained, or ticketed for/of unlawful acts by law enforcement agencies is subject to punishment and/or permanent expulsion from the entire athletic program.**

State law requires certain disciplinary actions for certain offenses that occur on school grounds or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property (note exception in #6 below). Offenses that require placement in an alternative educational program are:

1. Conduct that contains elements of simple assault or terroristic threat
2. Selling, giving, delivering to another or possessing, using, or being under the influence of:
 - a) Marijuana or controlled substance in amount not constituting felony
 - b) Dangerous drug in amount not constituting felony
3. Selling, giving, delivering to another or possessing, using, or being under the influence of alcohol
4. Conduct containing elements of offense related to a glue or aerosol paint or relating to volatile chemicals
5. Conduct containing elements of public lewdness or indecent exposure
6. Conduct that is a felony that occurs on or off school property
7. Retaliation against a school employee, either on or off school property and when not combined with another offense
8. Fighting on FISD property will result in a minimum penalty of a one contest suspension for the next in-season contest, as well as all penalties incurred from administrative discipline, and extra work assigned by the coach.

Offenses occurring on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school properties that require expulsion are:

1. Using, exhibiting, or possessing a firearm, prohibited knife, club, or prohibited weapon
2. Conduct containing elements of aggravated assault: sexual assault; aggravated sexual assault; arson; murder; capital murder, or criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder; indecency with a child; aggravated kidnapping; conduct related to alcohol or drugs that is punishable as a felony
3. The District will expel a student for retaliation against an employee involving any of the offenses listed above.

J. Any athlete found guilty of stealing or willfully destroying school property or a fellow student's property is subject to punishment or dismissal from the athletic program for 1 calendar year. This includes taking or destroying property of other schools. A second offense could result in permanent dismissal from the Athletic Program.

K. School Board policy provides a hair and dress code (found in the student handbook) for FISD students. Athletes set an example for the student body by strictly adhering to, or exceeding, all aspects of the code at all times. On certain occasions, such as traveling as a team, athletes are expected to dress according to team guidelines.

SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

No student is obligated to take part in athletics, nor is it required for graduation. Participation in athletics is a privilege, and the coaches and administrators have the authority to revoke this privilege when requirements are not met by the student athlete.

It is suggested that all student athletes place themselves on the "Honor System" and report themselves when a mistake is made. To do so indicates a desire to do right and a concern for the welfare of the team. All student athletes are expected to accept their coaches' judgment regarding the handling of any case. The conduct of an athlete is closely observed in many areas of life. It is important that his/her behavior be above reproach in all of the following areas:

All Guidelines apply “in-season” and “off-season”

- A. **Curfew:** Will be left up to the discretion of the coach and/or team of each sport in season.
- B. **Tobacco:** Tobacco is proven unhealthy, and its use by FISD athletes will not be tolerated.
Consequence will be in congruence with school discipline and could result in extra work assigned by the coach, as well as suspensions from contests. Repeat offenses could result in removal from FISD Athletics.
- C. **Alcohol:** Drinking alcoholic beverages is dangerous, unhealthy, and unlawful for teenagers, and incompatible with the desirable training programs for athletes. An FISD athlete who consumes alcoholic beverages jeopardizes his/her own and their teammates’ chances for success during the season. Drinking of alcoholic beverages by FISD athletes will be dealt with in the following manner:
 - First Offense:**
 - 30% game/contest in-season suspension to be determined by the Head Coach
 - 30 days Probation to include extra work assigned by the coach
 - Completion of an alcohol-awareness program at student/parent expense
 - Second Offense:**
 - One calendar year removal from all FISD athletic programs.
 - Third Offense**
 - Permanent removal from FISD Athletics
 - Athlete/Parents/Coach/Athletic Director conference at the beginning and at the conclusion of the suspension if the athlete desires to continue in FISD athletics
- D. **Drugs:** An athlete using legal drugs as medicine must inform the coach or athletic trainer so that parents and/or a doctor can be consulted if deemed necessary.
Illegal use of drugs of any type, including narcotics, marijuana, hallucinating agents, sedatives, and amphetamines is unacceptable.
 - First Offense:**
 - 30% game/contest in-season suspension to be determined by the Head Coach
 - 30 days Probation to include extra work assigned by the coach
 - Completion of a drug-awareness program at student/parent expense
 - Second Offense:**
 - One calendar year removal from all FISD athletic programs.
 - Third Offense**
 - Permanent removal from FISD Athletics
 - Athlete/Parents/Coach/Athletic Director conference at the beginning and at the conclusion of the suspension if the athlete desires to continue in FISD athletics
- E. **Use of Technology:**
All athletes will be required to sign the **FISD Athletics Social Media Pledge** found on Rank One
For any communication such as Twitter, Facebook, photo sharing, e-mailing, texting, etc... appearing on the internet is public domain even if it is marked private. Athletes are subject to disciplinary action for any electronic expression deemed inappropriate that occurs on school property, at a school-related event or school sponsored activity, in a vehicle operated by the district, or which attempts to portray the athlete as a representative of the school district (i.e., in school uniform/dress. Punishment will be determined by the AD and Head Coach and could be extra work, suspension from contests, or removal from athletics.

III. REVIEW COMMITTEE

A Review Committee made up of the principal, assistant principal, athletic director, and all head coaches of sports in which the student competes will review each case before final dismissal takes place.