

WHARTON ISD ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT MISSION AND PHILOSOPHY

The mission of the Wharton ISD Athletic program is to provide students an environment conducive to the development of positive character traits such as teamwork, discipline, commitment, perseverance, responsibility and school/community pride. We believe that athletic competition and the training and preparation requisite to success in team sports are powerful tools in the public school mission of preparing students for adult life in a democratic society.

The Wharton system will strive to employ coaches with special abilities to teach individual and group skills. These people will encourage participation in all sports and work hard to field the best teams possible while maintaining the integrity of our mission and protecting the welfare of the student-athlete.

No student is required to take part in school sponsored athletics. Belonging to a team is a privilege reserved for students who meet the state and local eligibility requirements, adhere to all policies and procedures of the team and conform to the high standards and ideals of interscholastic competition. When an individual fails to comply with these expectations, the privilege may be revoked.

- 1) To promote these ideals we resolve to:
- 2) provide students a rationale for respecting authority and rules;
- 3) provide opportunities for success that promote a healthy self-image and respect for others;
- 4) provide students opportunities to assume leadership roles and develop personal responsibility;
- 5) provide opportunities that show students the power of positive attitudes and perseverance;
- 6) provide opportunities that promote integrity and good citizenship;
- 7) provide students opportunities to realize gratification and fulfillment in the success of a group;
- 8) actively promote a unified total program and multi-sport participation.

Student Athlete Conduct and Discipline

- A. Alcohol, tobacco, and drug use
 1. First offense - a parent conference and two contest suspensions
 2. Second offense - conference and three game suspension
 3. Third offense - one calendar year suspension from the athletic program. The student may be re-admitted after one year with approval of the Athletic Director and Head Coach
- B. AEP Placement
 1. First offense - a parent conference and two contest suspensions
 2. Second offense - conference and three game suspension

3. **Third offense** – one calendar year suspension from the athletic program. The student may be re-admitted after one year with approval of the Athletic Director and Head Coach

C. Dress Code

1. Athletes will be neat and clean when representing the athletic department.
2. No unusual or conspicuous hair styles, cuts or colorings are permitted for boys or girls. Hair should not be in the eyes or create a hazard in any way.
3. Boys' faces will be clean shaven. Mustaches, beards and long sideburns are not permitted.
4. Boys may not wear earrings of any style while representing the team in any way. No student should wear jewelry at practice or in a contest.
5. Every effort should be made to ensure the uniformity of players during practices and contests. No article that is significantly different, conspicuous, or distracting should be allowed while practicing, traveling, or competing. Modesty should be the rule at all times. Sleeveless shirts, exposed midriff, exposed undergarments, etc., should not be allowed, especially in co-ed situations.
6. Boy athletes should be required to wear an athletic supporter and girls should be encouraged to wear an athletic support bra.
7. Uniforms should not be worn during the school day. Game day shirts may be worn by teams.

D. School Equipment

1. Athletes should be held accountable for issued equipment.
2. WISD will not sell items for souvenirs.
3. Vandalism of school property may result in dismissal or other disciplinary action and reimbursement for the loss.

E. Student Conduct

1. Athletes are expected to show respect for all coaches, teachers, administrators and support staff. Gross disrespect for authority is a severe offense and may warrant suspension from the athletic program.
2. Stealing cannot be tolerated. Violators will be dismissed from the team and may be suspended from the athletic program.
3. Student athletes will be held to a higher standard than the general student population. Athletes who do not adhere to the letter and spirit of all athletic department/team rules AND school/classroom rules may be punished by their coach. Extra work, suspension and dismissal are all options that may be exercised by the coach.
4. An athlete who is indicted for a felony cannot participate in sports. Involvement in lesser crimes may warrant suspension or dismissal from the program.

Student Participation

A. Multi-sport participants

1. Coaches will promote multi-sport participation and schedule practices and contests to accommodate this whenever possible.
2. Coaches will not penalize athletes for concurrent participation in another UIL activity or school sponsored club activity

B. Quitting

1. Quitting is contrary to all the virtues we try to instill through competition
2. An athlete who quits a sport cannot begin participating in another sport until the season is completed in the sport that he/she quit. Extenuating circumstances may be considered by the Athletic Director.
3. The athlete must arrange a parent-coach conference and will forfeit any award earned.
4. Remember that refusal to abide by team rules and expectations or gross disrespect of authority are serious violations that may warrant suspension from the athletic program. Quitting is not a means of avoiding this.

C. Squad Cuts

1. Coaches should document as many objective measures as possible when cutting a player from a team.
2. The Junior High program will be maintained on a participation basis.
 - a. All athletes should play $\frac{1}{4}$ of each game unless for disciplinary reasons. This may not be an exact measure and does not have to be consecutive minutes or points.

D. Attendance

1. An athlete cannot participate if he/she has an unexcused absence the day of the contest.
2. Athletes should get school work missed due to contests prior to the absence. Work missed should be made up as soon as possible. Absences from practice or contests will be tended by the coach. Unexcused absences may warrant suspension or dismissal. Excused absences may warrant make-up work.
3. Missed practices: All players are expected to attend all scheduled practices. It is impossible to improve as a team if players are not at practices. It is essential that appointments not be scheduled during practice times. It is also understood that scheduling conflicts will occur, however, these must be kept to a minimum. In order to be successful, we must have a commitment from our players and our parents. There are two types of missed practices: excused and unexcused. Please notify the coach if your athlete will miss practice. This allows the coach time to adjust the planned team workout schedule and drills. An excused missed practice is one where the athlete or parent calls the coach to notify him of the athlete's absence. This will result in the athlete making up missed conditioning. This will consist of 5 sets of lines. An unexcused missed practice is one where the athlete fails to notify the coach of his absence. The first offense will result with the athlete missing two quarters of the next scheduled game as well as 20 sets of lines. The second offense will result with the athlete missing the next scheduled game and 40 sets of lines. The third offense will result with the termination of the athlete from the team.
4. Tardiness to practice or contests will be tended by the coach. Unexcused tardies may warrant suspension or dismissal. Excused tardies may warrant make-up work.

Athletic Classes

A. General:

1. The athletic classes should be highly organized periods during the school day in which coaches promote the physical and mental development required for success in our programs. All athletic department and team rules apply during this period.
2. All athletes have common ground in basic physical skills; therefore, at least 40% of the class time should be used to develop physical skills such as strength, agility, speed, and aerobic conditioning.
3. All students will be required to suit out and participate whether they are "in-season" or "off-season".

B. Grading

1. At least 50% of the grade should be based on suiting out and participation. Other measurable objectives such as skills and knowledge may be considered as well.

AWARDS

A. Current UIL policy will be followed regarding athletic awards.

B. Lettering Policy

1. Volleyball Participate in $\frac{1}{2}$ of all varsity games.
2. Football Participate in at least 20 quarters of a 10 games or 40 quarter season. At the beginning of each season, each student will be given four free quarters and must play in an additional 16 quarters. A quarter is earned by entering a game during that quarter, whether it be for the entire quarter or any portion. A varsity member who has participated all 4 years in high school shall be awarded a major award.
3. Basketball Participate in at least $\frac{1}{2}$ of all varsity games.
4. Track Score a fraction of a point in the varsity district meet or an average of $\frac{1}{2}$ point in all major track meets other than triangular meets
5. Tennis Score a point in the district meet or win a majority of his/her matches in all major varsity tournaments entered.
6. Baseball Participate in $\frac{1}{2}$ the Innings scheduled in varsity competition. A pitcher shall participate in $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Innings scheduled in varsity competition.
7. Cross-Country Score a point or a fraction of a point at the varsity district meet
8. Golf Participates at the varsity level in $\frac{1}{2}$ of the scheduled tournaments
9. Softball Participate in $\frac{1}{2}$ the Innings scheduled in varsity competition. A pitcher shall participate in $\frac{1}{4}$ the Innings scheduled in varsity competition.
- 10 Managers Student managers may earn a major award by serving a varsity sport for 1 year and adhering to all athletic and attendance policies.
11. Head coaches may request that the Athletic Director grant a major award to senior students who have not met the requirements, but have exhibited exemplary characteristics of team commitment.