



**ATHLETICS**

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**PARENT/STUDENT-ATHLETE  
HANDBOOK**

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2019-2020



TYLER ISD ATHLETICS  
807 W Glenwood  
Tyler, TX 75701  
903-262-3079

Dear Athlete and Parent(s),

The purpose of this athletic handbook is to serve as a guide of our expectations for our student-athletes at Tyler ISD. I would like to ask each student and parent to carefully read the contents of our Athletic Handbook. The Contents of this handbook along with the Student Code of Conduct will be strictly followed.

In signing the contract, you are showing your acceptance of the discipline policies outlined in the Athletic Handbook. Remember the participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege, not a right. It is our goal for our athletes to represent our community, our schools, and our families with a great deal of pride. Let's win championships with class, dignity, and respect.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Greg Priest".

Greg Priest  
Athletic Director  
Greg.Priest@tylerisd.org  
903-262-3079

## ***Tyler ISD Vision Statement***

Tyler ISD will focus on successful student outcomes.

## ***Tyler ISD Athletic Department Vision Statement***

Provide leadership to our student-athletes to help them develop personally, academically, and athletically.

## ***Tyler ISD Athletic Department Mission Statement***

The mission of the Athletic Department is to support the overall mission of TISD and provide quality athletic participation opportunities for students.

## ***Philosophy***

At Tyler ISD, we believe that the athletic program contributes significantly to preparing our students for becoming productive, contributing citizens of our community and society. A comprehensive program of athletic activities expresses our commitment to ensure the development of physical fitness and personal health, the acquisition of competent performances, and the achievement of excellence in the student's chosen sports. In addition, our aim is to develop a student with an improved self-image, the ability to learn a new skill, and an intrinsic motivation for growth and development. We want to see a student who will demonstrate a willingness to accept responsibility for his/her actions, measure him/herself against standards of quality, express ideas and solutions to problems, and value fair play, honesty, and cooperation.

## ***Known Benefits of Extra-Curricular Activities***

1. Students who participate in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities tend to have higher grade point averages, better attendance records, lower drop-out rates, and fewer discipline problems than students in general. Students involved in activities/athletics are generally **motivated** to do well in school. Students perform better in class/tests after being physically active.
2. The majority of high school students nationwide perceive that athletes and other activities make school **fun and enjoyable** and are important.
3. Participation in sports and other extra-curricular activities has proven more likely to **predict future success** than either high grades or high SAT/ACT scores. Involvement in extra-curricular activities leads to feelings of self-satisfaction and happiness and gives students the will to succeed in life.
4. A sense of belonging, high hopes for achievement, acceptance of discipline and loyalty, time management skills, responsibility, accountability, punctuality, self-confidence, a sharing of different personal backgrounds, and an acceptance of different personalities are **valuable lessons** for adulthood that are taught through extra-curricular programs.

## ***Objectives of Tyler ISD Athletics***

The Tyler ISD Athletic Program provides opportunities for all students to participate in the sports of their choice. Athletes are strongly encouraged to participate in as many sports as possible.

### ***Our goals are:***

1. To develop and maintain the highest level of sportsmanship.
2. To develop proper attitudes toward winning and losing, success and failure.
3. To encourage and develop respect for fellow athletes whether they are teammates, members of other Tyler teams, or members of opposing teams.
4. To assure that the amount of time required for athletic participation does not interfere with academic success.
5. To develop proper attitudes toward individual health habits, appearance in and out of competition, and citizenship in and out of school.
6. To encourage competition not only for the tangible rewards but also for the development of positive attitudes that makes athletic competition valuable and worthwhile.
7. To maintain the highest standard of ethics, recognize each participant as an individual who will conduct him/herself in a manner befitting his/her responsibilities, and develop the kind of rapport with the broader school community that will improve the total educational program.

### ***Beliefs of Tyler ISD***

1. **We believe in playing by the rules.** We will exhaust every possible opportunity that might give us an advantage in competition and /or in life. However, we will never resort to cheating or foul play. We will not jeopardize the integrity of this program, this school system, or this community.
2. **We believe in superior physical condition.** Every athlete will be expected to participate in the athletic program for the entire year. We believe that all athletes should participate in active “strength and conditioning” periods if they are not “in season”. We also believe that, while “in season”, athletes should continue to lift weights and run in order to maintain their physical strength and stamina. If we are going to make a “good” program “great”, we think it is imperative that every athlete make a commitment to becoming **stronger** and **faster**.
3. **We believe in discipline.** We realize the importance of both discipline and self-discipline in this program and in life. Although every situation is dealt with on an individual basis, every athlete must believe that it is important to continuously strive to conduct themselves in a manner that is conducive to the program and his/her teammates. We support the guidelines set forth by the academic student handbook. We accept the decisions of officials without complaint, and we will be good sports at all times.
4. **We will play the game with great enthusiasm.** We will not forget that contests are meant to be FUN. That is why we all began participating in athletics to begin with. There is no greater feeling than winning. Winning, however, is not the measure of success. Working hard, playing for the “love” of the sport, and never giving up are criteria that we will gauge our success by.
5. **We believe in family.** There is nothing more important than our relationships with our families. This is true for our immediate family and our brothers and sisters in our “athletic family”. The communication and commitment to our families will prove to be the difference between being “good” or “great”. It is our goal that athletes, parents, coaches, faculty, and the community all believe in the same set of goals and values. With this, we hope that all parties will encourage and support decisions to produce great athletic programs and harvest individual athletes that will be successful in athletics and in life.

## ***Philosophy and Requirements of Coaches***

### **Philosophy of Coaching**

In Tyler ISD, coaching is defined as a teaching situation. This implies that teacher responsibility for supervision, preparation, and training is as essential in coaching as it is in the classroom; especially, if we are to justify our interscholastic program on a sound educational philosophy. Therefore, we must assume that the individual coach will apply him/herself to athletic assignments in the same professional manner displayed in a formal classroom situation.

We feel that a coach has the greatest opportunity to influence young people. A coach, in a three-hour practice after classroom instruction has been concluded, “teaches” an extension of the school day. The “classroom” becomes the football field, basketball court, or baseball/softball field. These are the “classrooms” that provide teaching opportunities in which a coach can use to help young people become better citizens and better human beings.

### **Code of Ethics for Coaches**

1. At Tyler ISD, each student-athlete should be treated as an individual whose welfare shall be primary at all times.
2. The coach shall be aware that he/she serves as a model in the education of the student-athlete and, therefore, shall never place the value of winning above the value of character building.
3. The coach shall constantly uphold the honor and dignity of the teaching profession and strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.
4. The coach shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct his/her program in harmony with the total school program.
5. The coach shall be thoroughly acquainted with contest, state, and local rules, and is responsible for their interpretation to team members. The coach shall abide by the letter and spirit of these rules at all times.
6. Coaches shall actively use their influence to promote sportsmanship by working closely with parents, athletes, and administration.
7. Contest officials shall have the respect and support of the coach. Public criticism of officials, players, or other coaches is unethical.
8. Before and after contests, rival coaches should meet and exchange friendly greetings to set the correct tone for the event.
9. Coaches will not use curse words or foul language with any student or in the presence of the students.

### **Coaching Requirements**

1. **CPR, First Aid and Concussion Management.** In compliance with UIL rules, all coaches must have current and valid first aid, CPR certification and concussion management training required by state law.
2. **Coaches Organization.** All coaches should be active members of the respective high school coaches association.
3. **Bus Driving Certification.** All coaches, unless restricted by medical complications, should have current CDL certification. In addition, all coaches should meet the requirements set forth by the TISD Transportation Department in order to operate a school bus.
4. **Communicate with Parents and Faculty.** All coaches will make sure that information regarding game sites, directions, or changes in information regarding game sites or directions is communicated via pre-season meetings, letters, phone calls or email. Any time that there is a change to a previously scheduled game. The coach **MUST** inform the Athletic Director, the Campus Coordinator, the Campus Principal, the Athletic Trainers, and the Officials on the changes.

## ***Expectations of Parents***

1. Be positive with your son/daughter. Let them know that they are accomplishing something by being part of the team.
2. Do not offer excuses to them if they are not playing. Encourage them to work hard and do their best.
3. Encourage athletes to follow the rules. Whether they are a first stringer or third stringer, players must follow rules.
4. As a fan, you are entitled to cheer your head off; but, don't become belligerent. Coaches work with athletes and know their talents. Respect that.
5. Insist that the athletes respect team rules, school rules, game officials, and sportsmanship. Self-respect begins with self-control.
6. Encourage the athletes to improve their self-image by believing in themselves.
7. Encourage your athlete to play for the love of the game.
8. Remember that the coach is involved as a coach because he/she is sincerely fond of children and is an experienced professional. Coaches have different ways of dealing with people and situations. Athletes' lives are enriched by interaction with different types of leaders.
9. Remember: At a competition, you, the parent, represent your town, your school and your son/daughter. Please be a positive role model.
10. Always show respect for the officials and the decisions that are made by the officials.

## ***Parent/Coach Communication***

As your son/daughter becomes involved in the sports program at Tyler, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there will be times when things do not go the way your child wishes. This is the opportunity for your child to talk with their coach and discuss the situation. When your child handles the problem it becomes part of the learning and maturation process. There will also be situations requiring a parent/coach conference (meeting, email, or phone). These are encouraged. It is important that both parties have a clear understanding of the other's position. Please follow these procedures to help promote a resolution:

1. Parent/guardian speaks directly to the coach to discuss concern.
2. If the concern is not resolved, contact the Campus Coordinator for that sport to arrange a conference. A meeting will be arranged with the coach and parent.
3. If the concern is still not resolved, contact the Athletic Director to arrange a conference.
4. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolutions.

Please wait 24 hours before approaching a coach either in person, by phone or through email. This allows all involved a "cooling down" period and also provides for a time for reflection.

## ***Expectations for the Athlete***

Athletics at Tyler ISD is a privilege; furthermore, a student is not required to participate in athletics to graduate from high school. Participation in athletics is a choice; therefore, student-athlete are required to conduct themselves with pride and dignity. **Because participation in athletics is a choice and not a privilege, a student athlete who violates general policies or procedures will be subject to discipline/consequences.**

The philosophy of the Tyler ISD Athletic Department is to create a successful program based on high standards. The coaching staff will work with each individual student athlete to ensure appropriate sportsmanlike behavior. The coaching staff will address any violation of policies (sportsmanship, training rules, missing practice, poor attitude, etc.) with the desire to help the student athlete. If the violations are repeated, the student will receive/could receive disciplinary action up to and not excluding removal from athletics.

The welfare of the Tyler Athletic Department and the student teams will take priority. Coaches and parents should remember the following points when dealing with athletic discipline:

1. A coach has the right to discipline an athlete on his/her team keeping in mind the welfare of the TEAM as well as the welfare of the INDIVIDUAL.
2. Every violation/confrontation should first be addressed by a conference with the athlete to discuss the violation and reaffirm the expectations of the coach and the athletic department.
3. A coach should exercise sound judgment in evaluating situations and penalties being as consistent as possible. Make the punishment fit the violation.
4. A coach will NOT dismiss a student from the athletic program without first discussing the situation with the Parent and Campus Coordinator.

## ***Eligibility***

### **1. Electronic Forms Must Be Completed Annually:**

- a. UIL Acknowledgement of Rules
- b. UIL Cardiac Awareness Form
- c. UIL Concussion Acknowledgement Form
- d. UIL Parent/Student Steroid Form
- e. Parent/Student Handbook
- f. Random Drug Testing Consent Form

2. **Pre-Participation Physical Examination Form** - A Physical Examination Form must be completed prior to junior high athletic participation and again prior to first and third years of high school athletic participation. The form must be filled in and signed by either a Physician, a Physician Assistant licensed by a State Board of Physician Assistant Examiners, a Registered Nurse recognized as an Advanced Practice Nurse by the Board of Nurse Examiners, or a Doctor of Chiropractic. Examination forms signed by any other health care practitioner, will not be accepted.

3. **Medical History Form** - Each year prior to any practice or participation a UIL Medical History Form signed by both a student and a parent or guardian is required. A Medical History Form shall accompany each physical examination and shall be signed by both a student and a parent or guardian. A student may be required to have a physical examination based on answers to the medical history form.

All paperwork must be cleared by a TISD Athletic Trainer prior to participating in athletics and includes tryouts, off season strength and conditioning programs, and competitions.

NO EXCEPTIONS. All required forms are available on the TISD athletic website or can be accessed on Rank One.

4. **Academic Eligibility** – If a student is rendered ineligible, they are not able to compete in a competition (but are still required to attend and participate in practices) beginning exactly one week after the ending date of the grading period. An athlete who is ineligible will be monitored in three week intervals. If the athlete is passing all courses at the end of one of the three week intervals, the athlete may regain eligibility. In this instance, the athlete will not be able to compete in a contest until one week after the end date for the review period.

5. **Failure to Complete a Sport** – Any athlete who quits a sport will not be allowed to participate in another sport until the current season is complete. Each athlete is expected to fulfill his/her commitment (in some capacity) to the team. Exception: Athletes who choose to quit a sport during the two-week “tryout window” will not be subject to this consequence. The tryout window is defined as the 14 calendar day period of time beginning with the first official practice of the particular sport’s season.

## ***Organization of Teams***

It is the philosophy of the athletic program and the desire of the coaching staff to see as many students as possible participate in the athletic program. It is also a goal of our program to persuade athletes to participate in as many sports as possible. Coaches of every sport are encouraged to select as many students as they can to a team without compromising the integrity of their sport. Obviously, time, space, facilities, equipment, athletic ability and other factors place limitations on the most effective squad size for any particular sport. However, when developing procedure in this regard, coaches should strive to maximize the opportunities for student-athlete without diluting the quality of the programs.

1. **Middle School Teams** – At this level, students become accustomed to interscholastic practice and play. For some, it is their first introduction to competitive sports, different from recreation in its demands and philosophy. Gaining experience through training and play should be of utmost importance, not the win/loss record. At this level of play, the focus is on learning athletic skills, rules, fundamentals of team play, social-emotional growth, and healthy competition.
2. **Freshman/Junior Varsity Teams** – This level of competition has an increased emphasis upon team play, physical conditioning, and refinement of basic skills. Although being successful on these levels is important, winning is not the sole objective. This is the level at which the athlete displays his/her readiness for the execution of skills at game speed. Athletic abilities, commitments, and positive attitudes will be rewarded and tested in competitive game situations. An attempt will be made to allow as many participants as possible to participate, but not all will participate equally. At these levels, participation will be based on the degree of effort, skill improvement, ability to compete and execution of skills at game speed demonstrated by the student athlete in practice and during contests.
3. **Varsity Teams** – Varsity competition is the culmination of each sport program. Squad size at the varsity level is limited. The number of participants on any given team is a function of the number needed to conduct an effective and meaningful practice and to participate in the contest. It is vital that each team member has a role and is informed of its importance. The number of roster positions is relative to the student’s acceptance of their individual roles in pursuit of the team’s goal. While contest participation over the course of a season is desirable, a specified amount of participation at the varsity level is never guaranteed.

## **UIL SPORTS OFFERED**

### **HIGH SCHOOL (9-12)**

Baseball  
Basketball (Boys and Girls)  
Cross Country (Boys and Girls)  
Football  
Golf (Boys and Girls)  
Powerlifting (Boys and Girls)  
Soccer (Boys and Girls)  
Softball  
Swimming (Boys and Girls)  
Tennis (Boys and Girls)  
Track (Boys and Girls)  
Volleyball

### **MIDDLE SCHOOLS (7-8)**

#### **Boulter, Hubbard, Moore, and Three Lakes**

Basketball (Boys and Girls)  
Cross Country (Boys and Girls)  
Football  
Soccer (Boys and Girls)  
Track (Boys and Girls)  
Volleyball

#### **Hogg**

Cross Country (Boys and Girls)  
Soccer (Boys and Girls)

### ***Attendance***

Student-athlete are expected to make school attendance a priority. This includes attendance both the day of and the day after athletic contests. Students are expected to be in attendance at school on time the day following any and all evening activities. All efforts are made to avoid late activities on school nights, but sometimes they are necessary.

Students are expected to be in attendance at all practices. Illness, injury, and ineligibility are not excuses to miss practice. If an athlete is physically not able to work out, he/she should be suited out in practice gear and becoming a better athlete mentally. A missed day of workout is something that cannot be made up. Any athlete who has an unexcused absence from a scheduled practice or athletic contest will be subject to discipline from their coach. If the behavior continues, it could result in suspension from a contest or eventual suspension from the team.

A student athlete absent from school (all day) for any reason, other than for a documented health care appointment (if the student begins classes or returns to school on the same day as the appointment), for participation in school sponsored activities, for travel related to religious holidays, or for a death in the family, will not be allowed to participate in any athletic event on that day or evening.

## ***Awards/Lettering Policy***

Each varsity sport has specific criteria for earning a varsity letter award. The head coach of each sport will provide each varsity team member with the lettering criteria. Earned letter awards (letter jackets, letter blankets) may be denied or taken up in the event a student-athlete violates the code of conduct or acts in a manner that embarrasses the Tyler ISD Athletic Program.

Football	5 or more games
Basketball	13 or more games
Track	4 or more meets
Cross Country	4 or more meets
Volleyball	14 or more matches
Baseball	13 or more games
Softball	13 or more games
Soccer	10 or more games
Tennis	50% or more of the matches
Golf	4 or more tournaments
Swimming	4 or more meets
Powerlifting	2 or more meets
Student Trainer/Manager	1 varsity season

The coach of any sport at his/her discretion may recommend an athlete for a letter who has not met the above mentioned requirements. These are instances in which a student has contributed greatly to team success through personal effort, loyalty, attitude, etc.

## ***Conflicts in Extracurricular Activities***

Tyler ISD recognizes that every student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extracurricular activities. Students are also urged to use caution in attempting to “specialize” too much, thereby denying themselves a well-rounded high school career. Students, however, should also be cautious about participation in too many activities. Interscholastic sports at the high school level require a substantial time commitment. A commitment to a high school athletic team indicates that all non-school conflicts will be resolved in favor of the high school team. This includes non- school league play in all sports, but would NOT include such things as religious holidays or family emergencies.

## ***School Holiday Participation***

While we realize the importance of school holidays, avoiding competition or practice on every school holiday sometimes is not feasible especially at the varsity level. Thus, the head coach of each sport may require participation on school holidays if the sport is in season with the following stipulations:

- a. The student-athletes and parents are given notice prior to the start of the season.
- b. The student-athletes and parents are given notice of the consequences if a practice is missed prior to the start of the season.
- c. Competition and practices must be scheduled in accordance with UIL rules
- d. Please check with your coach prior to planning vacations or appointments.

## ***Equipment Issue and Return***

Tyler ISD provides each team member with the best and safest equipment available. All equipment issued to an athlete is expected to be returned in the same condition as when issued (except normal wear and tear) or the athlete is expected to compensate the athletic program for the lost or damaged equipment. A student will not be allowed to participate in any other athletic program until all issued uniforms and equipment are returned in good condition or purchased

## ***Injuries***

Each High School employs three fully licensed Athletic Trainers and two fully licensed Graduate Assistant Athletic Trainers.

Injuries must be reported to an athletic trainer(s) as soon as possible. Unless the injury is an extreme emergency please contact the athletic trainer prior to visiting a doctor. Anytime a doctor is consulted for an injury, the student-athlete must present a written clearance for participation in athletics from the doctor before he/she is allowed to participate in TISD Athletics.

In many cases, the athletic trainer can save the student-athlete a trip to a doctor's office or a physical therapist's office thus saving on co-pays, etc. Please consult with the athletic trainers on all injuries and/or prescribed rehabilitation of injury programs.

In some extreme cases, the District's extracurricular catastrophic insurance plan may supplement the athlete's primary insurance if the injury occurred in athletics. However, certain steps and procedures must be followed to make a claim and it is imperative that the athletic trainer(s) is aware of the injury.

## ***Insurance***

Tyler ISD provides to all student-athletes a supplemental accident insurance policy with the student-athletes being the primary provider and the schools secondary.

Tyler ISD also carries a catastrophic injury insurance policy for extracurricular participants. The TISD policy does not take the place of a student's primary insurance. It is expected that all student-athletes maintain their own primary insurance coverage at all times.

## ***Multiple Sport Participation***

The Tyler Athletic Department supports the concept of participating in more than one sport. Coaches should NOT establish expectations "out of season" which would prohibit or restrict a student's participation in another sport which is "in season". Coaches should communicate and make any/all necessary arrangements with practice schedules and game schedules to provide an opportunity for those athletes that desire to participate in multiple sports to be successful.

## ***Travel***

Tyler ISD athletes are required to travel to and from athletic contests and special events in school-approved vehicles under adult supervision. A coach of the team must ride in the provided transportation with his/her athletes.

Team members are strictly forbidden to drive an automobile transporting members of an athletic team or to be driven by another student to an athletic contest or practice site.

Athletes are expected to ride to and from all athletic competitions together as a team. We realize that there are times that it is advantageous for a student/athlete to ride home with their parent or guardian. In the instance that an athlete must leave the competition with a parent or guardian, he/she should fill out the Travel Release Form as outlined in the student handbook. Every student athlete should also be "signed out" with their respective coach. Travel Release Forms are located in the High School and Middle School athletic website and in the athletic coordinator's office.

### ***Locker Room Behavior***

Each coach is responsible for the actions of the student-athlete on the team from the time they report to the locker room to the time they leave the premises. Coaches should be present at the facility AT LEAST thirty minutes before the student-athlete report for practice, games, meets. It is also the responsibility of the coach to monitor locker rooms at all times.

Athletes are expected to behave in locker rooms (both home and away) like they would be expected to act at home. General dressing room behavior is as follows:

1. No running, horseplay, hazing, or throwing objects
2. Keep all equipment in your locker (not on the floor)
3. Cleats should not be worn in locker room

### ***Cuts, Quitting or Disciplinary Removal***

A Student Athlete who is cut, quits, or is removed for disciplinary reasons from an athletic program during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of school will be removed from the athletic program. During the 1<sup>st</sup> week of school the student will have the option to choose another course where seats are available. After the 1<sup>st</sup> week of school a student who is cut, quits, or is removed for disciplinary reasons will be moved to a PE course. At the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> six weeks a junior or senior who qualifies may move to a junior or senior release period IF that move works in the student's schedule; otherwise the student will remain in PE until the end of first semester. A freshman or sophomore must remain in PE until the end of 1<sup>st</sup> semester.

### ***Hazing***

A person commits an offense if the person:

1. Engages in hazing.
2. Solicits, encourages, directs, aids, or attempts to aid another in engaging in hazing.
3. Has firsthand knowledge of the planning of a specific hazing incident involving a student in an educational institution, or firsthand knowledge that a specific hazing incident has occurred, and knowingly fails to report that knowledge in writing to the principal, Superintendent, or designee.

"Hazing" means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution directed against a student, by one person alone or acting with others, that endangers the mental or physical health or the safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are or include other students. The term includes:

1. Any type of physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body, or similar activity.
2. Any type of physical activity, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, and confinement in a small space, calisthenics, or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
3. Any activity involving consumption of a food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug, or other substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
4. Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects the student to extreme mental stress, shame, or humiliation, or that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from entering or remaining registered in an educational institution, or that may reasonably be expected to cause a student to leave the organization or the institution rather than submit to acts described above.

Any activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that involves a violation of the Penal Code. TISD Board Policy FNCC (Legal)

### ***Social Media Policy***

All student-athletes will refrain from posting, submitting, sending or publishing inappropriate, slanderous, derogatory, sexually suggestive, sexually explicit, or any form of negative comments, photos, texts, etc. to any electronic, public or private entity which includes, but is not limited to: Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, YouTube, Instagram, personal email accounts, person web pages, personal or private chat rooms, personal texting/cell phone accounts, etc.

Sending any form of inappropriate (as determined by TISD) photos, comments, etc., will not be tolerated regardless of who the intended recipient may be. Once sent, consequences designated by the coach in conjunction with district administration will occur.

### ***Technology/Internet/Photography/Electronic Devices/Restrooms/Dressing Rooms***

The use of mobile telephones or any device capable of capturing images is strictly prohibited in locker rooms or restroom areas while at school or at a school-related or school-sponsored event.

### ***National Signing Day Celebrations***

Each high school will provide three signing celebrations each year for our graduating TISD athletes who will be participating in athletics at the collegiate level. The celebration ceremonies will be on the second Wednesday in November, the third Wednesday in December (Football), the first Wednesday in February, and at a date (TBD).

Participation is open to all athletes who compete for Tyler ISD (in the sport they are going to play in college) through their senior year.

## ***Tyler ISD Athletic Code of Conduct***

Participation in any athletic activity at Tyler Independent School District is a privilege and is extended to all who wish to participate. Along with this privilege, all athletic participants must follow all rules set by the Tyler ISD Athletic Department and the University Interscholastic League in order to participate.

1. Athletes are students first and will strive to reach their potential academically as well as displaying excellent character and conduct within our schools and community.
2. Attendance is a must for athletes. They will attend academic classes as well as athletic practices and games. UNEXCUSED ABSENCES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.
3. Athletes are representing Tyler ISD and the community; therefore, good grooming standards will be met. Hair will be neat, clean, and of reasonable length. No facial hair is permitted. Tyler ISD's dress code will be followed. The Head Coach of a sport with the approval of the Athletic Director may have higher standards of dress and grooming.
4. It is a UIL rule violation to wear any type of jewelry during a UIL contest. Therefore, this ruling will be practiced at all times during all athletic activities including practices, games, and leisure workouts within the facilities of Tyler ISD. Male athletes shall not wear earrings while representing or attending any Tyler ISD school activities.
5. Athletes will dress appropriately while representing Tyler ISD. Proper attire will be worn during practice sessions, games, as well as traveling to or from other schools and tournaments.
6. Athletes will refrain from using profanity. It will not be tolerated.
7. Hazing of any type or form shall not be permitted. "Hazing" means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act occurring on or off campus directed against a student, by one person alone or acting with others, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members include other students.
8. Theft of any kind will not be tolerated. An athlete guilty of theft may be removed from athletics for one calendar year.
9. Athletes will display good sportsmanship as they represent Tyler ISD. They will show courtesy and respect for teammates, officials, opponents, spectators, coaches, parents, teachers, and community members.
10. Athletes are responsible for the equipment issued to them. They will be responsible for payment of items lost, damaged or not returned. All clothing and equipment issued to an athlete are the property of Tyler ISD.
11. Tobacco: Students are prohibited from possessing or using any type of tobacco product, electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), or any other electronic vaporizing device, while on school property at any time or while attending an off campus school-related activity. The

district and its staff strictly enforce prohibitions against the use of all tobacco products, e-cigarettes or any other electronic vaporizing device, by students and all others on school property and at school-sponsored and school-related activities. [See the Student Code of Conduct and policies at FNCD and GKA.]

The athlete who violates the above stated rules shall be subject to the following consequences:

Any possession or use of tobacco or E-cigs product – Dealt with on an individual basis by each individual program coach. Maximum penalty could result in suspension from game, games or removal from program. At Head Coaches discretion, decisions will be based on conduct history the student athlete has accrued.

12. **Illegal Drugs, Abuse or Misuse of Prescription Drugs, Alcohol, and Class C Misdemeanors:** Tyler ISD prohibits the use of illegal drugs, abuse or misuse of prescription drugs, and alcohol by students at school-related or school sanctioned activities on or off school property. Any student- athlete cited for drugs, abuse or misuse of prescription drugs, alcohol, or a Class C misdemeanor on or off school property shall adhere to the following after campus disciplinary action:

#### **First Offense**

1. Conference with student-athlete, parents or legal guardians and head coach to discuss prohibited conduct.
2. The student-athlete will be suspended from a minimum of ten percent of the team's contest (minimum 1 contest does not include a scrimmage) with any additional suspension (i.e., more than one contest) and physical training at the discretion of the Athletic Director and Head Coach. The suspension will take effect with the first regular season or post-season contest immediately following the offense. Any unfulfilled suspension shall be completed in the next academic year beginning with the first contest of the regular season.
3. The student will complete 25 hours of community service. The Athletic Coordinator or designee will monitor.
4. Appropriate drug education as imposed by the Athletic Director.
5. The student shall be required to produce a negative urine sample prior to being allowed to return to participation in any extracurricular activity.
6. The student's name shall be placed on the mandatory drug screening list for one calendar year.

#### **Second Offense**

1. Conference with student-athlete, parents or legal guardians and head coach to discuss prohibited conduct.
2. The student-athlete will be suspended from the program for a minimum of thirty percent team's contests with any additional suspension and physical training at the discretion of the Athletic Director and Head Coach. The suspension will take effect with the first regular season or post season contest immediately following the offense. Any unfulfilled suspension shall be completed in the next academic year beginning with the first contest of the regular season.
3. The student will complete 50 hours of community service. The Athletic Coordinator or designee will monitor.
4. Appropriate drug education as imposed by Athletic Director.
5. The student shall be required to produce a negative urine sample prior to being allowed to return to participation in any extracurricular activity.

6. The student's name shall be placed on the mandatory drug screening list for one calendar year.

### **Third Offense**

1. Conference with student-athlete, parents or legal guardians and head coach to discuss prohibited conduct.
2. The student-athlete will be permanently removed from his/her team for one calendar year.
3. The student will complete 100 hours of community service. The Athletic Coordinator or designee will monitor.
4. The student shall be required to produce a negative urine sample prior to being allowed to return to participation in any extracurricular activity.
5. The student's name shall be placed on the mandatory drug screening list for one calendar year.

13. In School Suspension – An athlete cannot participate in games until ISS is completed. Disciplinary actions are at the discretion of the Head Coach and or the Athletic Director.

14. DAEP - An athlete cannot participate in practice or games until his or her time in DAEP has been completed. Disciplinary actions are at the discretion of the Head Coach and or the Athletic Director.

### ***Random Drug Testing Program***

The District requires drug testing of any student in grades 7–12 who chooses to participate in a school- sponsored UIL athletic program. A student participating in an athletic program shall be randomly tested throughout the school year.

The purposes of the drug-testing program are to:

- a) Prevent injury, illness, and harm resulting from the use of illegal and performance-enhancing drugs or alcohol;
- b) Help enforce a drug-free educational environment;
- c) Deter student use of illegal and performance-enhancing drugs or alcohol; and
- d) Educate students regarding the harm caused by the use of illegal and performance-enhancing drugs or alcohol.
- e) Offer student-athletes a credible means to resist peer pressure as it relates to the use of legal and illegal drugs, alcohol, and performance enhancing substances.

The results of any drug test shall be used only to determine eligibility for participation in extracurricular secondary school-sponsored athletics programs. The District shall take no action against a student except as provided in the FNF Local policy, and no academic penalty shall be incurred by a student as a result of participation in this program.

The Board shall contract with a certified drug-testing laboratory to conduct testing of students' urine samples. Testing laboratories shall not release statistics regarding the rate of positive drug tests to any person or organization without consent of the District.

### **SUBSTANCES FOR WHICH TESTS ARE CONDUCTED**

Alcoholic beverages, and harmful substances, and synthetic substance including herbal incense/K2/Spice for the purpose of intoxication, narcotic drug, or other controlled substance of any form, except as prescribed by a licensed physician for legitimate medical

purposes for the students medical condition or disease. Drugs to be tested but not limited to: cocaine, opiates, cannabinoids, phencyclidine, menzodiazepines, amphetamine, methamphetamine, ecstasy, barbiturates, methadone, alcohol/ethylglucuronide, synthetic stimulants and or depressants, anabolic and androgenic Steroids, and inhalants.

Personnel from the drug testing laboratory shall collect urine samples under conditions that are no more intrusive than the conditions experience in a public restroom setting. When selected for testing, the selected student shall be escorted to the school's testing sight by a District employee and shall remain under District employee supervision until the student provides a suitable sample for testing. A certified professional collector from the drug testing laboratory of the same gender as the student shall monitor the collection of a suitable urine specimen. The student shall have due privacy at the urinal or within the bathroom stall. The collection shall not be a directly observed collection if the specimen produced is a suitable specimen within temperature range established by SAMHSA Urine.

Any attempt to substitute or adulterate the specimen by the selected student shall result in a positive test result and be considered refusing to test.

Random tests shall be conducted each six weeks throughout the school year. No less than ten percent of the students participating in athletics shall be randomly selected for each random test date. The drug testing laboratory shall use a random selection method to identify students chosen for random testing. Students shall not receive prior notice of the testing date or time.

A student who refuses to be tested when selected or who is determined to have tampered with a sample shall be subject to the appropriate consequences, as outlined in the administrative procedures provided to parents and students.

Upon receiving results of a positive drug test, the District shall schedule a meeting with the student and the student's parents/guardian to review the test results and discuss consequences.

Prior to testing, the student or parent/guardian shall provide any information and documentation that may reveal a possible reason for a positive test result. The student or parent/guardian shall have ten school days following the meeting to provide a medical explanation for a positive result.

If a student tests positive for a trace amount of a drug for which tests are conducted, the following shall occur:

**For a first offense,**

- a) The student shall be called into a conference with the athletic trainer, coach/sponsor, and the campus coordinator overseeing that sport.
- b) A verbal and written warning shall be given. The student shall be given until the following day to inform his or her parents or guardian.
- c) The athletic trainer shall contact the student's parents or guardian by telephone to inform them of the test and to discuss the District's drug screening policies and procedures. A copy of the signed written warning shall then be sent to the parents or guardian via the U.S. mail.
- d) The student's name shall be placed on the mandatory drug screening list for one calendar year from the date of the test.

- e) There shall be no suspension or other punitive actions taken.

**For a second offense,**

- a) Test shall be considered positive, and the student shall be subject to the provisions at CONSEQUENCES POSITIVE TEST, below.

**Consequences of Positive Testing**

Consequences of positive test results shall be cumulative through the student's enrollment in the District.

Consequences of a first confirmed positive test result shall be as follows:

1. The District shall hold a required conference with the student/athlete and the student's parent/guardian. The purpose of this meeting shall be to answer any questions regarding the drug- screening policies and procedures as well as to help identify and correct any at-risk behaviors.
2. The student shall be suspended from ten percent of all athletic contests and competitions. The suspension will start with the next regular/post-season competition from the time of the parent/guardian conference. During the suspension, the student-athlete may participate in practice, attend team meetings, but may not travel or dress for any contest.
3. The District shall refer the student-athlete to a District approved counseling program for an assessment which will determine the length of counseling needed for the student. The student must fulfill the recommendation of the counseling program, and provide documentation confirming completion of the program.
4. The student shall be required to produce a negative urine sample prior to being allowed to return to participation in any extracurricular activity.
5. The student's name shall be placed on the mandatory drug screening list for one calendar year.
6. A positive test that results in a suspension in excess of the number of athletic contests remaining in the season shall continue with the start of the next athletic season. If a student is a multiple sport athlete, the suspension shall carry over to the next sport.

Consequences of a second confirmed positive test result shall be as follows:

1. The District shall hold a required conference with the student/athlete and the student's parent/guardian. The purpose of this meeting shall be to answer any questions regarding the drug- screening policies and procedures as well as to help identify and correct any at-risk behaviors.
2. The student shall be suspended from thirty percent of all athletic contests and competitions. The suspension will start with the next regular/post-season competition from the time of the parent/guardian conference. During the suspension, the student-athlete may participate in practice, attend team meetings, but may not travel or dress for any contest.
3. The District shall refer the student-athlete to a District approved counseling program for an assessment which will determine the length of counseling needed for the student. The student must fulfill the recommendation of the counseling program, and provide documentation

confirming completion of the program.

4. The student shall be required to produce a negative urine sample prior to being allowed to return to participation in any extracurricular activity.
5. The student's name shall be placed on the mandatory drug screening list for one calendar year.
6. A positive test that results in a suspension in excess of the number of athletic contests remaining in the season shall continue with the start of the next athletic season. If a student is a multiple sport athlete, the suspension shall carry over to the next sport.

Consequences of a third confirmed positive test result shall be as follows:

1. The District shall hold a required conference with the student/athlete and the student's parent/guardian. The purpose of this meeting shall be to answer any questions regarding the drug- screening policies and procedures as well as to help identify and correct any at-risk behaviors.
2. A minimum of one full calendar year suspension from all athletic contests from the time of the parent/guardian conference. During the suspension the coach may allow the student athlete to participate in practices, attend team meetings, but may not travel or dress for any contest.
3. The District shall refer the student-athlete to a District approved counseling program for an assessment which will determine the length of counseling needed for the student. The student must fulfill the recommendation of the counseling program, and provide documentation confirming completion of the program.
4. The student's name shall be placed on the mandatory drug screening list for one calendar year.
5. Community service: A student testing positive for the third time or subsequent time shall be required to perform 20 hours of community service as approved by the campus administration.

Any offense beyond a third offense shall be treated as a third offense for the purposes of assigning consequences under this policy before a student regains eligibility to participate in athletics.

A student or parent may appeal a decision made under this policy in accordance with the administrative procedures provided to parents and students outlining the student drug test activity appeals process.