

McDade ISD



Athletic Handbook

2016-2017

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Attention: Superintendent, at PO Box 400, McDade, TX, 78650.
Phone: (512) 273-2522.

PREFACE

McDade ISD Student-Athletes & Parents,

Welcome to another great school year in McDade ISD. The faculty, staff and coaches are excited about the 2016-2017 school year. We hope you enjoy success in all facets of your education with McDade ISD. McDade ISD is pleased to afford the students of McDade Junior High School & McDade High School to participate in any and all extracurricular activities. The intent of the Athletic Handbook is to help both students and parents with the operating procedures of the Athletic Department.

This handbook has been developed to familiarize parents and students with the policies and procedures of the McDade ISD's Athletic Program. It defines various policies and procedures that are to be followed in order to facilitate communication within the limits of MISD school board policy.

This handbook will be an effective form of orientation for new as well as veteran parents at all levels of the Athletic Program.

Good luck in all your endeavors, both in the classroom and in the athletic arena,

Paul A. Smith
Athletic Director
McDade ISD
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**MCDADE ISD
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK
FOR
PARENTS AND STUDENTS**

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The role of athletics in the public schools has increased in its importance over the last couple of decades. The athletic program should provide an area of physical improvement, moral enrichment, self-discipline and mental focus. The development of mental discipline, hard work, courage and a strong character are all justifications for the importance of athletics in the school and community. As the level of competition increases, so does the development of integrity, self-discipline, self-esteem and character. Excellence should be strived for in athletics and academics.

Athletics plays an important role in the life of the McDade ISD student. Young people learn a great deal from their participation in interscholastic athletics. Lessons in sportsmanship, teamwork, competition and how to win and lose gracefully are an integral part of each team in our athletic program. Athletics plays an important part, too, in helping the individual student develop a healthy self-concept as well as a healthy body. Athletic competition adds to our school spirit and helps all students and spectators, as well as participants, develop pride in their school.

It is the goal of the athletic program of McDade ISD to offer the opportunity of participation to every student who has the ability and desire to do so. Student athletes must realize it is a privilege to represent one's school and community, not an inherent right. Therefore, proper conduct at all times is the foundation of the successful athletic program. Since it is a privilege, the athletic department has the authority to revoke the privilege when rules and policies are not followed. The special standards for athletes provide the security, which the youth of today need.

The ultimate goals of the athletic department are: 1) to realize the value of participation while developing self-esteem through victories and positive character through defeats, 2) to develop and portray positive citizens of McDade, Texas 3) to emphasize academic success to our athletes.

ADDRESSING CONCERNS WITH A COACH

Appropriate Concerns

1. Areas athlete should improve on
2. Academic Concerns
3. Health or Injury Concerns
4. Scheduling Conflicts
5. Travel Questions
6. Off-season Camps

Inappropriate Concerns

1. Playing Time
2. Position
3. Coaching Strategy
4. Other Students on the Team

ATHLETES IN THE ATHLETIC PERIOD

Students are required to acquire a minimum number of PE credits for graduation. These credits can be earned in the athletic periods. Middle School and High School student-athletes who wish to participate in one or more team sport (basketball, cross country, football, track or volleyball) will be required to enroll in the athletic period. Students who wish to limit their participation to. Athletes may be removed from the athletic period for multiple reasons and this is under the discretion of the Head Coach or Athletic Director. Any student who will no longer be competing for a High School team sport may be moved out of athletics at the conclusion of their competitive season. Academic class conflicts will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis to determine the academic need of the conflicting course.

ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT

Participating at the 1A level brings great opportunities as well as challenges for our students. There is an opportunity available to participate in multiple extracurricular activities and athletic teams that may not be afforded at larger schools. The challenge is in finding time for those students to tune their body consistently in order to excel in the different athletic arenas, as well as develop their overall athletic ability. To address this issue, the McDade Athletic Department provides an athlete development program for both the Middle School and the High School, in which the student may receive an overall athletic training which is not focused on the individual drills of a particular sport. This program is utilized both during the school day and after the school day. This program has been put in place to help maintain the health and stamina of the student athlete.

ATHLETIC AWARDS & LETTERING

LETTER JACKETS:

The present UIL under Chapter 1, Subchapter 0, stipulates that only one major award (maximum cost \$70.00) for participation in inter-school competition may be presented during a student's High School enrollment in the same High School. Additional symbolic awards not to exceed \$10.00 may be presented for each additional interscholastic activity during the student's High School career. Participant must meet the scholastic requirements as set forth by the UIL in order to be eligible to receive an award.

Awards are granted to students for exemplary representation of the school. Winners of such awards are subject to the rules and regulations of the school and community and should the student's behavior during his/her school career be such that he or she is not representative of the school, then the school may withhold presentation or revoke the award and repossess the symbol of the award, although minimum requirements as outlined below have been satisfied.

The awarding of the McDade High School Athletic Letter Jacket to a student is the second highest award the school bestows; the highest is the diploma for graduation. In order to letter, an athlete must be on a varsity team and satisfy the requirements stated below.

Varsity Teams: McDade ISD will furnish the letter jackets to each athlete who meets the qualifications for lettering. Guidelines that will be followed by all are:

- UIL rules will be followed in regard to cost of jackets.
- No participant will receive more than one letter jacket.
- An athlete will receive a jacket in the sport they letter in first.
- The jacket will have an "M" letter/patch.
- All letter jackets will be the same for all sports.
- An athlete must complete the season in order to receive a jacket.
- An athlete must begin, remain and end each season academically eligible.
- Each coach will keep records of student participation in each sport.
(Such records will be used as a basis for determining which athletes satisfy lettering qualifications)

A student may qualify for a major award only in a varsity sport. All coaches will determine who will letter according to policy, subject to approval of the Athletic Director.

The following is a list of criteria that will be considered before a letter jacket is awarded.

Football

1. The student must participate in 90% of all workouts*.
2. The student must participate in all scheduled games unless he/she is involved in another school-sanctioned activity.
3. **The student must play in 20 quarters to letter.**

Basketball

1. The student must participate in 90% of all workouts*.
2. The student must participate in all scheduled games unless he/she is involved in another school-sanctioned activity.
3. **The student must play in 60 quarters to letter.**

Volleyball

1. The student must participate in 90% of all workouts*.
2. The student must participate in all scheduled games unless he/she is involved in another school-sanctioned activity.
3. **The student must play in 15 matches to letter.**

Baseball/Softball (When Offered)

1. The student must participate in 90% of all workouts*.
2. The student must participate in all scheduled games unless he/she is involved in another school-sanctioned activity.
- 3. The student must play in 30 innings to letter.**

Track and Field/Cross Country

1. The student must participate in 90% of all workouts*.
2. The student must participate in all scheduled games unless he/she is involved in another school-sanctioned activity.
3. The student must play at least 40% of the scheduled games and satisfy the coach that he/she is worthy of a letter.
- 4. The student must score points in the district meet and attend 4 meets.**

** Illness or injury will be taken into consideration when calculating participation.*

Tennis (When Offered)

1. The student must participate in 90% of all workouts*.
2. The student must participate in all scheduled games unless he/she is involved in another school-sanctioned activity.
- 3. The student must advance to semifinals in district competition or advance to state competition in team tennis.**

Power-Lifting (When Offered)

1. The student must participate in 90% of all workouts*.
2. The student must participate in 75% of all scheduled meets.
- 3. The student must lift in 4 and medal in at least one varsity meet(s) or advance to regional competition.**
4. The student must score points in two meets.
5. The coach or Athletic Director must recommend the student.

Exceptions to lettering qualifications:

A participant may letter at the coach's discretion if the participant is considered to have been of exceptional value to the team. Exceptions **may** include, but are not limited to, playing on a team for four years and never lettering, an injury causing athlete to be unable to complete the season, a position as a specialist of some type, continued practice and support of the team throughout the season though failing for part of the season. All exceptions will be discussed between the Head Coach and the Athletic Director so that all students are treated fairly.

NOTE: An athlete (including transfers) who has not met the above requirements may earn a letter jacket his/her senior year at the discretion of the head coach and athletic director.

FORFEITURE OF LETTER JACKET: Any athlete who has qualified for a letter jacket but has been dismissed from the squad for disciplinary reasons will not receive an award. A student can be required to return letter jacket for actions detrimental to the sport or school.

ATHLETIC PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION FORMS

All new students to McDade ISD that enroll during or following their 8th grade year are required to have a Previous Athletic Participation Form (PAPF) on file. In accordance with UIL ruling, a **varsity** athlete may be eligible at a receiving school if the sending school administration, coaching personnel and parents of the student sign the proper forms and statements. This is still subject to the approval of the receiving school and the District's Executive Committee. The proper forms provided at district expense are available through the Athletic Director. If eligibility of an athlete is not approved by the District Executive Committee, the process of Waiver of Eligibility Rules and Review may be processed. The information regarding this type of action may be obtained from the UIL website or the Athletic Director.

The procedures for completing the UIL Previous Participation Forms are as follows: Athletic Director and Head Coach meet with the student and their parent(s) in initiating the form process. The Head Coach will contact via phone each former school Head Coach and verify transfer and special circumstances of student. The Athletic Director of Head Coach will then meet with the student and parent on the completion of the PAPF prior to sending it to the district UIL Committee.

ACADEMIC ALL-DISTRICT

Any student on a varsity team that maintains a 90 or above grade average while in season will be recognized by UIL, in the district they are representing, as a member of the All District Academic Team. Guidelines are determined and set by the UIL District Executive Committee.

ACADEMIC DISMISSAL

Any student-athlete who fails two consecutive 6 weeks, without regaining eligibility at the 3 weeks or the 6 Weeks period may be taken out of the athletic period and placed on Academic Suspension. Also, any student-athlete who fails any three 6 weeks grading periods may be taken out of the athletic period and placed on Academic Suspension.

BANQUETS

The Athletic Booster Club will host an Athletic Banquet. Student-Athletes will be allowed in free of admission. Student-athletes will be required to wear semi-formal attire (no shorts or athletic shoes). Students who are not dressed appropriately will not be allowed into the banquet. Each sport will be limited to 10 minutes of time to recognize their respective athletes and accomplishments.

BOOSTER CLUB

Parents and coaches of McDade ISD student-athletes of all levels are encouraged to attend and to participate in Athletic Booster Club activities. Officers will be elected from a pool of parents who are current members in good standing with McDade ISD and the McDade Athletic Booster Club. Parents will be required to participate/work an assigned number of events in order for their child to be eligible to receive an Athletic Scholarship. The Booster Club will present a financial report for the Club to the Superintendent once a year as required by UIL rules.

CHEERLEADING AND MASCOT CONSTITUTION

The McDade ISD Cheerleader Constitution outlines standards of eligibility and procedure for all McDade ISD Cheerleader and Mascot candidates and standards of conduct and behavior to which all McDade ISD Cheerleader team members are expected to adhere as representatives of their student body and of McDade ISD. The McDade cheerleaders and mascots are and will be recognized as an independent group and will be required to abide by this constitution.

Preamble

The following articles have been developed with the advice and consent of the administration and the cheerleader sponsor for the purpose of communicating the standards of eligibility and procedures which all candidates must meet to be eligible for participation and for the purpose of articulating the standards of conduct and behavior to which all McDade ISD Cheerleader members are expected to adhere as a condition of participation in cheerleading team activities. Participation in extracurricular activities, including cheerleading team activities, is a privilege, not a right, and student participants will be held to higher standards than students who choose not to participate in extracurricular activities.

This document may be amended at any time and does not limit a sponsor's ability to make decisions pertaining to his or her program, consistent with the guidelines set forth herein.

Article I—Mission Statement

The purpose of the McDade ISD cheerleading program shall be to promote and encourage team spirit, to foster good fellowship and sportsmanship by example, and to engender enthusiasm and loyalty to team and school. Members shall lead by example; shall embody exemplary qualities of character; and shall uphold the highest moral standards in their service to the school and the community as representatives of their student body and of McDade ISD.

Article II—Candidate Eligibility

2.1 A cheerleader or mascot team candidate must not have been academically ineligible, as defined by No Pass No Play rules, for two or more six weeks during the current school year and must be passing all courses with a grade of 70 or above at the time of registration to be eligible.

2.2 A cheerleader or mascot team candidate who has resigned or been removed from his or her squad may not participate in subsequent years.

2.3 All candidates must demonstrate exemplary attendance, behavior, and citizenship habits. Candidates

must have had at least a 90% attendance rate for the current school year and must not have been suspended, assigned to ISS, or expelled at any time during the current school year to be eligible for participation. The campus principal or designee will make the final determination regarding a candidate's eligibility for participation.

2.4 All candidates must be medically fit to participate in cheerleading team activities, as certified by a medical doctor. All cheerleaders and mascots must provide sponsor with a current physical before summer camp.

2.5 All Cheerleaders and mascots will attend a mandatory Summer Cheer Camp. The date and location will be determined at a later date.

2.6 All candidates and their parent or guardian must attend the mandatory orientation meeting(s) for their program to be eligible for participation. Failure of the parent, guardian, or proxy to attend the mandatory orientation meeting(s) will result in the candidate being ineligible for participation.

2.7 Students will not be eligible to participate if he/she:

- a) Has received two or more disciplinary referrals for the current school year.
- b) Has received citations of any nature for the use of or possession of alcohol or tobacco during the current year.

Article III—Candidate Expectations

3.1 Candidates should understand that acceptance into the McDade ISD Cheerleading Team is a privilege. Cheerleading team members represent to the community and the public not only themselves, but their student body and McDade ISD and should uphold the highest moral standards.

3.2 Candidates should exemplify exemplary qualities of character. Candidates should be responsible, honest, reliable, dependable, cooperative, dedicated, and loyal.

3.3 Candidates should be enthusiastic, self-disciplined, willing to learn, and prepared to practice to improve their performance and the performance of the squad.

3.4 Candidates should understand that the schedule of a cheerleader or mascot requires a large time commitment.

3.5 If a cheerleader or mascot will be absent from school and will miss ANY function, he/she or a parent MUST notify the sponsor of the situation in advance if possible.

3.6 If a cheerleader or mascot is not able to perform due to injury, he/she must attend all functions and should return to active participation as soon as reasonably possible.

Article IV—Candidate Membership

4.1 Membership in the McDade cheerleading program is from the date of registration to the last day of school the following school year. Membership may be terminated at any time for failure to comply with the standards of conduct and procedure outlined herein. The McDade cheerleading squad shall be

comprised of 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th graders. Of these members a captain and co-captain will be named at the mandatory summer camp.

4.2 A cheerleader or mascot who has been removed from the team may not participate the succeeding year.

4.3 A cheerleader or mascot who resigns or relinquishes his/her membership without completing the school year may not participate the following year.

4.4 Each candidate should be in good physical condition due to the vigorous nature of the physical activity required.

Article V—Expectations for Members

5.1 Members shall be on time and prepared for all cheerleading activities. Members should be dressed in the required uniform prior to the start of the activity.

5.2 Members shall be neatly presented in appearance, with hair neatly groomed and pulled back from face.

5.3 Members shall attend and perform all required duties at all practices, games, events, or functions, including any required camp or competition. Members who miss a required practice or fail to perform a required duty may not be allowed to perform at the next game, event, or function.

5.4 Members shall maintain their eligibility status under No Pass, No Play Rules. Members must maintain a grade of 70 or above in all classes, other than an identified honors or advanced class, to be eligible to participate. Members with disabilities must meet the standards in their IEP to be eligible to participate.

5.5 Members shall maintain at least a 90% attendance rate throughout the school year.

5.6 Members shall comply with all TEA-UIL Side by Side Guidelines for Cheerleading Teams. The TEA-UIL Side by Side guidelines are available at the following website:
<https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/tea-uil-side-by-side>.

5.7 Members shall comply with all rules and regulations outlined in their school's Handbook.

5.8 To better document behavior, a demerit system will be used as a disciplinary tool which is fair and equal for all. Demerits will be issued by the sponsor for any violation of rules and/or conduct. Any serious violations will be punishable as deemed necessary by mutual agreements between the sponsor and the administrator. The demerit system begins the Monday after registration and continues until new registration the following year.

Demerits will be given for the following:

Category	Minimum possible demerits
ATTENDANCE	
Being late/leaving early up to 15 minutes from practice / meeting / special event	
☞ With notice	1
☞ Without notice	2
☞ Because of teacher / office discipline consequence	3
Absent from practice/meeting/special event	
☞ With notice	3
☞ Without notice	4
☞ Because of teacher / office discipline consequence	5
Being late/leaving early up to 15 minutes from game/performance	
☞ With notice	4
☞ Without notice	4
☞ Because of teacher / office discipline consequence	5
Absent from games/practice	
☞ With notice	6
☞ Without notice	10
☞ Late return from break	2
APPEARANCE	
Not in expected, assigned standardized uniform/dress	
☞ Practice	1 per item
☞ Game/performance	2 per item
Missing equipment	
☞ Practice	1 per item
☞ Game/performance	2 per item
☞ Wearing the cheerleader uniform as an individual or lending to a non-cheerleader	5
SAFETY	
Not appropriately participating	3
Uncooperative actions / comments	3
Not having proper shoes	2
Wearing jewelry	1

Eating / Drinking / Chewing gum	1+
Talking into the stands	2+
BEHAVIOR	
Public displays of affection	2+
Unnecessary talking/misbehavior/disrespect - peers/ adults	1+/3+
☞ With profanity	11+/13+
Teacher email or call to sponsor	1+
Lunch detention, attendance/discipline	1+/2+
Referral to the office	5
Any assignment to ISS	6 per & 1 week suspension
Any expulsion	30 per & dismissal
Blatantly ignoring rules, guidelines, expectations or directions set forth by sponsor, constitution and/or McDade ISD	10+
Any behaviors that result in a citation or ticket	20+ & possible dismissal
RESPONSIBILITIES	
Loss of academic eligibility	5+ per class
Failure to complete assigned tasks by designated deadline	
☞ Fundraising material	2
☞ Paperwork	2
☞ Money	2
Failure to assist your squad with putting up spirit items prior to game/event	3
Failure to assist your squad with clean up after game / event	4
Failure to check out with sponsor	4
Failure to participate in team fundraising event	4
Leaving uniform, equipment, or valuable personal items at game / event	5 per item

CONSEQUENCES

10 Demerits - One week suspension from cheerleading duties. Conference with sponsor and parent(s) will be held.

☞ Suspension - cheerleader is not allowed to actively participate in any games or events during suspension. **Attendance at practice is still mandatory. Uniform will not be worn on game days during suspension.**

20 Demerits - Three week suspension from cheerleading duties. Conference with sponsor and parent(s) will be held.

☞ Suspension - cheerleader is not allowed to actively participate in any games or events during suspension. **Attendance at practice is still mandatory. Uniform will not be worn on game days during suspension.**

30 Demerits - Dismissal from cheerleading duties. Conference with sponsor and parent(s) will be held.

Although an effort has been made to outline possible discipline situations, other infractions not defined in the above demerit and demotion discipline system will be addressed and punished, deemed as necessary at the discretion of the sponsor and an administration representative.

Article VII – Uniforms: Uniforms shall be provided by McDade ISD. This includes top, skirt, bloomers, socks, and poms. The following will need to be provided by the cheerleader: payment for cheer camp, camp clothes, black leggings, sports bra, white cheer shoes, and hair bow. The uniform for the mascot will be provided by the school.

Article VIII—Standards for Member Removal

Due to the high level of visibility of campus cheerleaders and mascots, members are expected to demonstrate leadership, honor, and integrity both in and out of uniform. Because acceptance into the McDade ISD Cheerleader program is a privilege, not a right, members will be held to higher standards than those imposed on the general student body. Members may incur additional disciplinary consequences for behavior that does constitute a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, and may also incur disciplinary consequences from both the appropriate administrator and his or her sponsor for inappropriate conduct even if it DOES NOT constitute a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Members must comply with all standards of conduct outlined below, in addition to the standards of conduct and behavior outlined in the McDade ISD Student Code of Conduct.

8.1 Members will be subject to the standards of conduct outlined herein at all times, regardless of when or where the conduct occurs, whether on or off school property and whether or not school is in session. Failure to comply with the standards of conduct may result in disciplinary action against the member, up to and including removal from the squad.

8.2 Members shall not engage in inappropriate behavior, including but not limited to inappropriate sexual contact, fighting, public intoxication, possession or consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs, or other criminal activity excluding minor traffic offenses.

8.3 Members shall not engage in behavior that warrants suspension from school, removal to DAEP, or expulsion from school. Members who have been suspended from school at least two times, removed to DAEP, or expelled from school shall be removed from the squad for the remainder of the year.

8.4 Members may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including removal from the squad, for any other behavior which the sponsor deems inappropriate, including but not limited to unsportsmanlike conduct, insubordination, or lewd or profane internet behavior.

8.5 Examples of inappropriate conduct on the internet which could warrant disciplinary action including dismissal from the squad will include: inappropriate pictures or activities on electronic communication devices (including cellular phones) and internet websites to include but not limited to: Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter or other public forum web-sites in which inappropriate behavior is visible.

DISCIPLINE

Philosophy

The athletic program at McDade is a voluntary program. It is a privilege, not a right, to be in athletics; therefore, it is necessary for student-athletes to hold a certain code of conduct that is above and beyond those followed by their peers. Expectations of discipline, character and integrity are the integral parts of the Florence athletic program.

Academic success is necessary to compete in the athletic program. Academic success is necessary for successful team participation. A student-athlete is expected to be a student first and an athlete second.

A firm and fair policy of enforcement is necessary to uphold the regulations and standards of the athletic department. The community, school administrators and coaching staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program of athletics.

All athletes shall abide by a code of ethics which will earn them the honor and respect that participation and competition in interscholastic programs afford. Any conduct that results in dishonor to the athlete, the team, or the school will not be tolerated. Acts of unacceptable conduct tarnish the reputation of everyone associated with the athletic program and will not be tolerated. Negative attitudes and behaviors violate team goals and philosophies. Violations will result in losing the privilege of participating in athletics.

A student is not required to take part in athletics nor is it required for graduation. Therefore, athletics is a privilege; consequently, when the high ideals and standards are violated, this privilege can be revoked. McDade ISD athletes will act with pride and dignity.

Coaches have the right to discipline athletes on their individual teams, but should exercise sound judgment in evaluating specific penalties, keeping in mind the welfare of the team, as well as the individual. Above all, coaches must be consistent with their discipline. Discipline must be consistent with Athletic Policy and is subject for review by the Athletic Director.

ATHLETIC GROOMING/JEWELRY POLICY

1. Dress for athletes will conform to standards set by McDade ISD School Board.
2. All athletes (male and female) will be neatly dressed. All athletes will adhere to the approved travel attire set for each sport.
3. Male athletes-hair should be neat, as determined by the Athletic Director. Hair will be off the collar (Guidelines used will be the Texas High School Coaches Association). Hair should not exceed 3 inches in any direction. Facial hair will not be allowed; Sideburns are not to exceed the earlobe.

4. Male and female athletes shall not wear jewelry during extracurricular athletic activities or during the athletic period. Male and female athletes shall not wear facial piercings (nose rings, eyebrow rings, lip rings, tongue studs, etc.)
5. Male athletes are not to wear earring at school or at any school related function (On or off campus)

TEAM VIOLATIONS

CONSEQUENCES

Grooming Policy Violation	Conference, Athletic Reminder or Suspension
Loss of Equipment	Cost of Equipment & Athletic Reminder
Jewelry in Practice or Games	Sport related Athletic Reminders
Tardy to practice and or game	Sport related Athletic Reminders
Not calling in absences	Sport related Athletic Reminders
Missed Practices	Sport related Athletic Reminders (make-up work)
No Practice Clothes	Sport related Athletic Reminders
Public vulgarity or lewdness	Sport related Athletic Reminders
Referrals	Subject to the discretion of the Head Coach & Athletic Possible Athletic Contract
Suspension from school	One-month suspension & Athletic contract
ISS (In School Suspension)	Conference w/coach & Athletic Director + Sport related reminders

*Note: Any athlete who is assigned ISS on the day of a competition will subsequently not be allowed to participate in that day's competition. However, athlete will still be required to attend any and all after school practices during their time in ISS.

Harassment	Conference and possible Athletic contract or Suspension
Failure to follow directive	Athletic reminders, Athletic contract or removal from Athletic Program
DAEP Placement	Removal from Athletic Program-Meet w/ Athletic Director upon return with an Athletic Contract-Subject to the Athletic Director & Head Coach's approval
Misdemeanor Criminal Activity*	
1 st Offense	One Month Suspension
2 nd Offense	One Year Suspension
3 rd Offense	Lifetime Suspension
Felony Criminal Activity*	
1 st Offense	One Year Suspension
2 nd Offense	Lifetime Suspension
Quitting Sport in Poor Standing	Removal from Athletic Program, Completion of a "Dismissal" contract--Subject to the Athletic Director and Head Coach's approval.

Failing/Ineligibility

Suspension from Athletic contests until passing or until dismissed from the Athletic Program.

*Criminal Activity must come from a reliable source.

*Police, Administration or coach

*Rumors from students or parents will not justify criminal activity, until it is confirmed from a reliable source.

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION WHEN ASSIGNED ISS

McDade Athletic policy prohibits students assigned to ISS from participating in extracurricular contests while currently assigned ISS. ISS is defined as a suspension from the classroom into another setting. Grades 6-12 will abide by this policy. Students will still be required to attend after school athletic practices. Students who are assigned ISS on the day of a competition will not be allowed to participate in that day's competition.

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION WHEN ASSIGNED DAEP

McDade Athletic policy prohibits students assigned to DAEP from participating in extracurricular activities including but not limited to practices, contests, meetings or banquets while currently assigned DAEP. DAEP placement is an automatic removal from the Athletic Program. Grades 1-12 will abide by this policy. Students will still be required to receive Athletic Director and Head Coach approval before being allowed to back under Athletic Contract.

ELIGIBILITY

Each coach must know and make a diligent effort to understand the interpretations of all UIL rules. It is the responsibility of the coach to explain these rules each year to their athletes and to see that they abide by them. Ignorance on the part of an athlete or coach concerning any rules is no excuse. Violations of a rule on the part of an athlete or a coach can result in suspension of a school from league activities. Before a student can practice, he/she must have on file:

- Acknowledgement of rules
- Parent permission (Signed by parent/guardian and the student-athlete)
- Parent communication plan
- Abide by current insurance policy
- Physical exam-as defined by the UIL
- Initiated transfer release procedures (when applicable)
- Emergency information
- UIL waiver (if applicable)

Student-athletes must meet all DEC and UIL eligibility requirements.

They must also meet all academic and athletic standards that have been placed on McDade ISD Students/Athletes.

EQUIPMENT

Students who are issued equipment are responsible for that equipment until it is returned to the school. This includes soft goods that have not been previously purchased. Any equipment that is lost is the responsibility of the student. All equipment that is not returned must be paid for by the student before the end of the 6 weeks.

FACILITY USE BY OUTSIDE GROUPS

McDade Athletic facilities may not be used by any outside groups without proper approval from the Athletic Director, Principal and Superintendent. A McDade ISD facilities use contract must be properly filed and signed, along with a building request. Any and all costs of such events will be the responsibility of the approved group or organization.

FUNDRAISERS

The Athletic Director and/or Principal must approve all fundraisers.

GAME DAY ATTENDANCE

Students who do not attend at least half a day of school on game day may not be eligible to participate in an athletic contest that evening.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Grievances may go to as many as three levels; however, if the Athletic Policy is followed properly they should be able to be resolved at the first level. The purpose of the levels is not to continue until a parent receives a decision or answer that they like best. It is simply a means to ensure that the McDade Athletic Policy was followed properly. Concerns over playing time or athletic strategy will not be heard by the different levels. The Head Coach of each sport has sole responsibility in those areas.

- **Level 1 Grievance**

Level 1 constitutes a meeting between the coach and the parent. This must be a formal meeting set up prior to its occurrence. Informal conversations do not constitute a Level 1 grievance.

- **Level 2 Grievance**

Level 2 constitutes a meeting between the coach and the Athletic Director. The purpose of a Level 2 grievance meeting is to ensure that Athletic Policy was followed by the coach in an appropriate manner.

- **Level 3 Grievance**

Level 3 is the final grievance stage. This level is a meeting between the parent, Athletic Director and a Superintendent. The purpose of a Level 3 grievance is to ensure that Athletic Policy was followed by the Athletic Director in an appropriate manner.

INJURIES

All injuries should be reported immediately to the coach. Doctor notes should also be made available to the coach. When possible, rest and rehab should be done under the coach's care.

INSURANCE

Students should obtain an insurance from a personal provider. The school does not supply insurance.

LAUNDRY/SOFT GOODS

Coaches will provide a daily laundry service to student-athletes for their athletic soft goods (athletic shirts and athletic shorts). Any items which student-athletes wish to have washed by the coaching staff must have their goods marked, properly secured, and placed in the appropriate basket. Athletes may take soft good home to wash, but are responsible /liable for items not brought back on time.

Athletes will be required to dress out each day in the appropriate McDade Athletic Gear.

Athletic soft goods may be bought by athletes or their parents. Athletes and parents may also purchase multiple sets of athletic gear. All gear bought by the individual is the property of that individual. Any student athlete, who does not wish to purchase their own gear, will have gear issued by the coaching staff. This gear must be turned in or paid for at the end of the year.

LOCKER ROOMS

Locker rooms will be kept locked whenever possible. Each athlete will be issued an athletic locker. Students are responsible for providing their own locks. It is the responsibility of each athlete to ensure their personal belongings are locked in their locker and all time. Any items left on the floor will be taken up. Students may retrieve items that were left out following completion of a sport specific reminder. After 2 weeks all items will be given to charity. The McDade Athletic Department does not take responsibility for any items that are lost or stolen. School Administration and McDade Coaching Staff have the authority to search lockers at any time.

MEDIA

Athletes who are interviewed by any form of the media should be monitored by a coach of that sport. It is always good practice to inform the Athletic Director or Head Coach if a student or parent is contacted by the media. The McDade Athletic Department will not hinder any type of positive media; however, the Athletic Department does reserve the right not to comment to the media.

MISSING A PRACTICE, GAME OR WORKOUT

Any athlete who will miss a practice, workout, game or meeting must call in prior to their absence to inform a coach of their pending absence. This includes, but is not limited to, illness, school functions and/or tutoring. Any absence that goes unreported to a coach becomes an unexcused absence. Any student-athlete who is more than 25 minutes late is considered absent.

MULTIPLE SPORTS

Athletes are encouraged to play as many sports as they are able to and remain physically, mentally and academically healthy. Athletes will be required to participate in the Athlete Development Program throughout the year. Student Athletes who do not participate in Athlete Development will not be allowed to participate in team sports.

PARENT ORIENTATION

Each sport will hold a Parent Orientation prior to the first game of their season. Each parent will have access to a MCDADE ISD ATHLETIC HANDBOOK for PARENTS & STUDENTS, along with handouts for that particular sport. The handbook is available for viewing online and parents will receive the corresponding signature sheet to sign. If you do not have access to the web, you may check out a copy of the handbook and then sign the signature sheet. Parents can expect to receive game and practice schedules, athlete expectations, parent expectations, coaches' contact numbers, website information and any other information the coach feels parents need to know about the sport. This is an appropriate time to find out what you can expect from the coaches of that sport.

It is a violation of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules to supply gifts, incentives or money to Student-Athletes. Receiving such items could result in the loss of amateur status and eligibility for one year. Receiving such items by a team could result in penalties against such team. It is always good practice to receive some compensation for food provided after contests or practices. (This does not apply to a student under your guardianship)

PARENT/COACH MEETINGS

Meetings between parents and coaches are very beneficial when done in the appropriate manner. There are guidelines MCDADE ISD would like both coaches and parents to follow:

1. DO NOT meet after a contest. Emotions are high for everyone, and the coach is responsible for ensuring the students, facilities and equipment are all safe and secure following a contest.
2. Parents should call to set up a meeting during the coach's conference period.
3. Coaches and Parents should remember "PCP" when having the meeting (Start with a **P**ositive, state your **C**oncern, end with a **P**ositive)
4. Coaches may not talk about playing time without the parents of the other student-athlete present at the meeting.
5. **The Athletic Director will not meet with parents until there has been a documented, Parent/Coach meeting.**

PARTICIPATION CONFLICT POLICY

When a student is confronted with a conflict resulting from two or more co-curricular activities being scheduled at the same time, the following procedure will apply:

- When a conflict occurs between scheduled practices, the student should consult both coaches and sponsors of each event. School activities are not considered an unexcused absence; however, each athlete is expected to make up any missed work or conditioning at another time.
- When a conflict occurs between a competition/performance and a scheduled practice, students are expected to attend the competition/performance without loss of group membership, academic penalty or status in the other activity.
- When conflict occurs between two competitions/performances, the student should consult both coaches and sponsors of each event in a timely manner. If a serious difference of opinion arises, the student and the adult advisors will resolve the conflict jointly.

The overall importance of the conflict events will be weighed against each other in this decision process and will serve as the determining factor. If, in the opinion of the advisors, both competitions/performances can be attended, the student will be expected to attend both activities. Coaches and Adult advisors will make every effort to coordinate annually to avoid scheduling conflicts. An absence from any school practice or contest for a non-MISD activity is considered an unexcused absence.

PHYSICAL EXAM/MEDICAL HISTORY

Students are required by the State of Texas to have a physical examination, by a medical doctor, before entering the 7th, 9th and 11th grades. The UIL and the McDade Athletic Department recommend a physical examination each year, but only require a physical every two years. McDade ISD will attempt to offer an opportunity each year for local students to receive a physical examination, often for a reduced price. The required forms for each student who participates in any practice, scrimmage or game are the responsibility of each student to obtain. Forms to be filed annually include a physical, parent's permission, UIL rules acknowledgement and risk acknowledgement. These forms must be on file before any athlete can participate in any practice (including athletic period), scrimmage or game.

PRACTICE POLICY

- All practices will follow UIL rules.
- Students are expected to attend all required practices.
- Students are required to notify his or her coach if a practice must be missed, or cut short.
- Coaches will determine whether an absence is an unexcused or an excused absence according to the McDade Athletic Handbook.
- Athletes who do not notify their coach in advance of their absence will be considered unexcused.
- Students are considered present when they begin and end practice in good standing.
- Students are required to have the appropriate attire and equipment for each practice and contest.

QUITTING A SPORT/DISMISSAL FROM A SPORT

Any student who has ceased to come to practice and/or contests is considered to have quit a sport. Any student, who is told by the Head Coach of a sport not to come back to practice or contests, may consider himself or herself dismissed from a sport. Students who have quit or have been dismissed from a sport may not participate or practice in another sport until they have completed a “dismissed” contract, and the original sport has completed the season. If a student quits and/or is dismissed from 2 sports during a single school year, that student may be removed from the athletic program.

SPORTS-RELATED REMINDERS

A reminder is a physical punishment designed to “remind” a student-athlete what is expected of them and to serve as consequence when those expectations are not met. Each sport will institute a form of physical reminder. These will be explained to the student-athletes and parents prior to the beginning of the season. Examples are, but not limited to: extra miles, running lines, 45lb plate run or jumps.

STUDENT TRAVEL

McDade ISD will provide transportation to and from all athletic contests. Any student wishing to ride the return trip with his or her parents must have a signed note from their parent to the coach. This note must be delivered, by the parent or guardian of said student, to the coach within a reasonable amount of time. Any alternative travel plans must be approved by the Head Coach prior to leaving. Students are expected to follow team travel rules, as well as those rules set by the Transportation Department of McDade ISD. Students are allowed to bring sack dinners on away contests.

PARENT PICK-UP AFTER PRACTICES AND GAMES

It is an expectation that students are picked-up directly after practices and games. Practices times are set ahead of time in order to inform the parents of the time ahead of schedule. Students will be given an approximate time of arrival back to the school after games and will be allowed to contact parents or guardian on the bus when they are within close proximity of the school. If a student is waiting 30 minutes or more after an event, they will be issued a warning. Students receiving two warnings will be placed on a non-travel team.

STAAR TEST/ EOC

Practice on the days of STAAR tests is allowed unless local policy or administrative directives provide otherwise. The decision is left to the Campus Principal or Superintendent. However, contests shall not be played on the day prior to or the day of STAAR or EOC test.

TEAM PICTURES

Each sport will provide a day for photographers to come out to photograph the team and individuals. Students and parents will have the opportunity to purchase either individual pictures or team pictures.

MCDADE ATHLETE DO'S

1. **Do Display Commitment** to any and all extracurricular BULLDOG athletic activities by virtue of enrolling in athletics for the 2016-2017 School Year. By committing to involvement in athletics it is understood that practice, workout and competition times are of the essence in order that the McDade programs continue to be competitive at the highest levels possible. Missing more than 3 practices, workouts or competitions, for reasons other than those that are considered to be school-related, will constitute non-commitment to the program(s) and may constitute removal from the sport in question, as well as transfer from McDade athletics, unless deemed otherwise by a consensus of all members of the McDade coaching staff.
2. **Do Pass** by maintaining satisfactory (passing) grades for both the fall and spring semesters, thereby assuring eligibility for any and all athletic competitions. **Failing any subject(s) and being ineligible for a total of 2 grading periods** (even if they are non-consecutive 6 weeks periods) and non-compliance with any mentioned objectives, **may result in dismissal** by a consensus of all members of the Florence coaching staff.
3. **DO Dress For Success** by following the district's dress code which is established to teach grooming and hygiene, prevent disruption and minimize safety hazards. Students and parents may determine a student's personal dress and grooming standards, provided they comply with the current student handbook sections particularly outlining the dress code. Neatness and cleanliness in keeping with good grooming is required of each student. Since parents play an important role in the selection of clothing worn to school, the coaching staff reserves the right to contact the student's parents if the clothing worn is disruptive to the orderly school environment. Students are expected to use good judgment. Student dress often sets the pattern for behavior.
4. **Do Expect To Work On Getting Better During** team off-season Strength & Conditioning and in McDade Boot Camp. The objective of any athletic program is to develop a total athlete and total athletic teams---both physically and mentally. A physically strong and quick athlete is good, but one who has physical prowess, plus the mental toughness that comes from pushing and being pushed is even better. Athletes who are in the best possible shape are usually less prone to injury of both the major and minor variety. An athlete does not refine themselves or only help the team when "their" season comes around. It begins before---in the weight room, at the track and while doing plyometric. It is those areas that play a major role in positive development of any school's athletes and their respective team's athletic success. Athletes that are willing to pay the price of "maxing out" on weights, getting a burn in the muscles and "gutting it out" will be the athletes that can be counted on and not counted out. Off-seasons, for those willing to "go hard and not go home," give those athletes character and discipline that will also last far beyond the area of athletic competition. There are few exceptions to the run, jump, cut-a-move mode that is particular to team-oriented sports. All the "in-season" practices will not pay off if the extra "off-season" work has not been approached sincerely. Summer Workout Camp is also going to be an opportunity for you to get better.

5. **Do Have Positive and High Expectations and Expect Your Coaches to Have Positive and High Expectations of You. A Team Without Positive and High Expectations is A Team Expecting to Lose.**
 - Apply yourself in the classroom.
 - Do give your total effort and make the most out of what you have to give.
 - Do give of yourself unselfishly toward your teammates and respect them.
 - Do practice to the best of your ability.
 - Do be on time at all times.
 - Do be courteous.
 - **Do Always Encourage!**
 - Do be positively emotional and positively enthusiastic.
 - Do have self-confidence.
 - Do learn to believe in yourself.
 - You can do all things if you just believe.
6. **Do Be A Hard Worker** and make this known to your coaches and your teammates by your actions; not your words.
7. **Do Display Courage and Have The Strength of Character to Choose The Right Way, Even if it is the Hard Way.** Temptations have been around forever – stay away from things that are bad for you. Have a lifestyle that you can be proud of.
8. **Do Know Your Teammates and have as many positive personal relationships on your team as possible.** Do care for and respect every person on your team. There will be no personality problems on this team.
9. **Do Set the Example.** Do stay out of trouble and negative situations all the time. It is NOT hard. There will be attitude adjustments for choosing the wrong way.
10. **Leadership is the Opportunity To Serve.** It is not a trumpet call to self-importance.
11. **Do Accept Full Responsibility.** When you lead and make decisions, you will occasionally make a mistake- admit it and go on. Allow people to see you as human, yet with a sense of direction and fairness.
12. **Do Know What The Job Is.** Find out all you can about your role and how to play it. Find out ways to become faster, stronger and more mentally disciplined. Buffaloes do get the job done. Find a Way!
13. **Do Treat Everyone The Way You Want To Be Treated.**
14. **Do Understand That Your Teammates Are Working When You Are Not Present.** You are expected to show them and your coaches that your team is important to you. We develop chemistry when everyone plays under the same rules. Understand that coaches are charged with managing the safety of athletes under their care. Being physically fit to perform the required actions to play and compete is an utmost concern. Understand that required actions makeup conditioning will not completely cover all you miss, but will fall within an acceptable range.

15. **Do Understand That Fundamentals Are A Very Important Part Of Our Programs.**
We work on fundamentals at every practice. Athletes need to practice the basic fundamentals they miss due to absences.
16. **Do Understand The Makeup Policy Can Not Compensate For the Time You Miss Working With Your Teammates.** Athletes learn a little more at each practice on how they and their teammates' perform. When you miss, that part of practice is gone forever. Do understand and take to heart the following reminders which are built into your makeup work to encourage you not to miss valuable time—If you are going to be absent you are expected to personally notify a coach. Do your make-up work before you miss when possible. Check your schedule and arrange your business so you are not absent. Realize that tardiness shows disrespect for your teammates, coaches and yourself. Understand that “on time” is late and “15 minutes early” on time. Anything other than being suited up and on the line after the tardy bell will result in Team Buffalo attitude adjustment. Translated, that means your teammates will be running while you are running late. This applies like in any other classroom/instruction situation. When you miss an academic class for athletics, you are expected to makeup and catch up on what was missed.
17. **Do Understand That Notes From Home Will Not Prevent You From Working Out.**
If you are at the stage where you have to have a note from home instead of a doctor, you have no business being in athletics and representing McDade High School. If you are that ill or injured, stay home.

MCDADE ATHLETIC BEHAVIOR CONTRACT 2016-2017

Date: _____

I, _____, understand that I am on probation concerning my status with the McDade Athletic Program. I know that any incident in which I do not meet the behavioral and academic expectations, on and off the field/court, of the athletic program, will result in immediate disciplinary action. I fully understand what those behavioral expectations are, and I also understand that by signing this contract I have agreed to the terms and conditions listed below:

Upon signing this Contract the following will result:

1. _____ **Athletic Reminders**
2. **Upon any violation of McDade HS Policy or McDade Athletic policy, the following will result:**
3. **Upon a second offense, I will be terminated from the athletic program.**

I understand that failure to meet these conditions will result in termination from the athletic program. Failure to sign this contract by either the student or the parent or guardian will result in an automatic suspension from the athletic department.

This contract has been written by the McDade Athletic Department and approved by the McDade Administration. The contract will be signed by the coaches involved, the Athletic Director, the student-athlete, and the parent/guardian of the athlete.

PRINTED NAME:

SIGNATURE:

_____ Student _____ Date: _____

_____ Parent/Guardian _____ Date: _____

_____ Coach _____ Date: _____

_____ Athletic Director _____ Date: _____

McDade Athletic Department CONTRACT

Dismissal in poor standing at any time, or quitting automatically places the student on suspension from any athletic practices or competition.

Date: _____

I, _____, understand that I have been removed from _____ in poor standing. In order to regain a positive standing in the athletic department, I must complete the following in order to participate in _____.

1. Meet with the Athletic Director.
2. Serve a suspension until _____.
3. To return to the athletic department and compete in any sport I will write and application for return.

PRINTED NAME:

SIGNATURE:

_____ Student _____ Date: _____

_____ Parent/Guardian _____ Date: _____

_____ Exiting Coach _____ Date: _____

_____ Receiving Coach _____ Date: _____

Upon Completion of the contract:

PRINTED NAME:

SIGNATURE:

_____ Receiving Coach _____ Date: _____

_____ Athletic Director _____ Date: _____

PARENT / STUDENT-ATHLETE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The McDade ISD Athletic Handbook has been drawn up to help you gain an understanding of the McDade Athletic Program. It is intended to help inform you and your student-athlete of the expectations of the student, their parent or guardian, and the coaches. It is important that we have your support and cooperation to make the 2016-2017 School Year successful both on and off the field. Your signatures acknowledge receipt and review of the Athletic Handbook.

Student Name (Printed)

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Relation to Student-Athlete

Parent/Guardian Home Phone Number

Parent/Guardian Cell Phone Number

Parent/Guardian Home Address:

Street

City, State, Zip