



Athletic Handbook 2019-2020

This handbook is designed to provide for a successful experience for student-athletes and the efficient operation of the Boles ISD Athletic Program. The athletic handbook is designed to coexist with the Boles ISD Student Handbooks and the Boles ISD Student Code of Conduct. Student athletes in grades 7-12 are accountable and responsible to the rules and requirements contained within this handbook. It should be noted that while different sports may have additional rules and regulations that go beyond what is listed in this athletic handbook, those rules are in addition to this athletic handbook-not in place of them.

**Known Benefits of Extracurricular
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.

2. The majority of high school students nationwide perceive that athletics 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.

4. Involvement in extra-curricular activities leads to feelings of self-satisfaction and happiness and gives students the will to succeed in life.

5. 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.

95% of Fortune 500 CEO's participated in interscholastic athletics!

Our Vision of how to get there:

Perennial success is an uncommon type of success. In order to get there we must learn to do uncommon things. Through athletics, it is our goal, that we teach and practice actions that will contribute to the entire community. We want our players developing the work ethic, attitude, and competitive spirit that will carry over to every aspect of their young lives. Academic success and strong character are the foundation of our achievements. No matter what field or court we take to, our athletes must believe that they are a part of something much more than just themselves. These are our ideas of how Boles Athletics can contribute to Boles ISD success.

The Boles Independent School District encourages student participation in extracurricular activities. These activities are an extension of the regular school day. While participation in the regular school district curriculum is a right afforded to every student, participation in the extracurricular programs are a privilege that is accompanied with additional expectations and responsibilities. Boles ISD students that are engaging in the extra athletic programs represent themselves, their school, and the surrounding communities. For this reason, their conduct must be exemplary and reflect the positive attributes of the BISD.

Participation in extracurricular activities such as athletics are voluntary and not mandatory.

Should a student choose to participate in athletics, they must adhere to the standards that are set by the program, the teams, and the coaching staff of BISD. This document will serve as The Athlete Code of Conduct and extends beyond the BISD Student Code of Conduct. The intention of this handbook is to compliment the other handbooks designed by the BISD Administration and Board of Trustees.

Player Participation Policy It is the desire of the Boles ISD. Athletic Department to promote athletic participation in all sports offered. Sub-varsity levels are viewed as learning and developmental stages. Varsity denotes higher skill levels have been attained and athletes are striving for competitive excellence in their sport. On the 7th and 8th grade levels, every uniformed team member will participate in each contest. Coaches will accommodate this policy. At the junior varsity level, coaches will still make every effort to play every uniformed team member. Junior Varsity is a transitional level to varsity so factors such as squad size, level of competition, and time limits will affect coaches' decisions. Each varsity athlete will have an individual role on his/her team. That role may be as a starter, a substitute, or other designated position. Competitive excellence is the goal; therefore an individual's playing time is not a consideration. Playing time IS NOT guaranteed on the varsity level.

The decision of who fills various roles on each team is at the discretion of the team's head coach. These decisions are not considered lightly by the coach. Many hours of practice and evaluation are re-viewed prior to reaching these decisions.

Middle School Program Philosophy

Middle school programs are developed to afford as many students as possible the opportunity to participate in an organized, competitive environment. Athletic participation is part of educational development and athletes should develop fundamental knowledge and skills as well as develop character, sportsmanship, and a sense of fair play.

This participation experience should prepare as many students as possible for competition in the high school program.

Expectations of Hornets and Lady Hornets

- You are a Hornet or Lady Hornet athlete 24 hours/day – 7 days/week – 365 days/year!
- What YOU do affects ALL of us.

It is the goal of the athletic program to offer this opportunity of participation to every

student who has the ability and desire to do so. However, no student is obligated to take

part in athletics, nor is this required for graduation. Student athletes and

parents/guardians must understand that it is a **PRIVILEGE** to participate in Bole's

interscholastic athletic program. A condition to participating in the Bole's ISD

athletic program is a commitment to follow the rules, regulations, policies, and

procedures established by the district for the implementation of its athletic program. It

must also be understood that athletes who violate the rules, regulations, policies, and

procedures shall face disciplinary action.

Eligibility Standards

1. Must meet UIL Residency standards

2. Pre-participation Physical Examination – ALL athletes must have a

current physical on file with the Athletic Department (dated on or after

May 1st of the required examination year).

3. Medical History Form – On required physical years, prior to any practice or participation, a UIL

medical history form must be completed and signed by both student and a parent or guardian.

4. Parent or Guardian Permit – Annual participation permit signed by the student's

parent or guardian is required.

5. Rules Acknowledgment – Annual UIL Rules Acknowledgment Form signed by the

student and the student's parent or guardian.

6. Receipt of Athletic Policy – Annual form signed by the student and the student's parent or guardian stating that they have read and agree

to abide by the rules set forth in the Athletic Handbook.

7. Academic Eligibility – Boles ISD is on a 6 week grading period. In general, to be eligible for athletic competition, students must pass all classes for the first 6 week grading period (progress report) and every 6 week grading period thereafter. 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.

8. Enrollment in the Athletic Period – All athletes participating in one or more of the designated team sports (Volleyball, Football, and Basketball).

**Individual Sports – Students who participate in Powerlifting, Golf, or Track that do not also participate in one of the designated team sports do NOT need to be enrolled in an athletic period.*

9. Failure to Complete a Sport – Any athlete who quits a sport will not be allowed to participate in another sport until the sport they prematurely left has completed their season, including any post-season qualifications. Quitting is an intolerable habit to acquire. Athletes that quit are giving up on themselves and those that depend on them. Commitment to being a team member is one of the most valuable lessons learned in athletics. 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.

*** This policy is not applied in the event that a player is dismissed from the team by the head coach. Any player dismissed by a team head coach will be reviewed by the Athletic Director prior to the athletes participation with future athletic teams in the Boles ISD*

Athletic Program.

10. Placement in Alternative Education – Any athlete placed in the Alternative Education Program (AEP) will be ineligible for participation in the athletic program for the duration of their placement. Upon release from AEP, the student athlete's Participation in a season that has started during the AEP placement is subject to the discretion and review of the head coach. If the head coach determines that is not in the best interest of the team for the athlete to participate, then the student will not be allowed to join the team until the next calendar year's season begins.

Placement in ALPs: Students that are placed in ALPs may not actively participate in after school practices, however must attend the practices to watch and support their team while serving their placement in ALPs. Students that are placed in ALPs on a game day will not be allowed to participate in the game, but must attend the game with the team. In the event that the student was placed in ALPs for a non-discipline related issue, the Principal and the Athletic Director may release the student to participate with mutually agreed consideration.

AMMENDMENT 2019:

Students absent from instruction for non school sanction reasons will not be allowed participation within athletic related activities unless otherwise approved by campus administration.

THE BOLES ATHLETE

There are many advantages of being a member of an athletic team in the Boles Independent School District. In fact, there are so many that it would be difficult to list them all. But there are some realities each athlete needs to be aware of before accepting the challenge of becoming a student-athlete for his or her school.

- 1. You may practice and never get to start.**
- 2. Training rules may cramp your social life. Sacrifices will be necessary.**
- 3. You will have to practice every day after and/or before school, Saturdays and possibly on holidays.**
- 4. Do not expect favors because you are an athlete, expect a challenge.**
- 6. You will be expected to be well-behaved on and off the field of play. What you do off the field may get you dismissed.**
- 7. You will be expected to follow BISD Student Code of Conduct.**

Academics

Athletes must realize that they are students first and athletes second. Athletes must plan their schedule so that they give sufficient time and energy to their studies to ensure acceptable grades. Athletes must be passing all subjects at the six weeks grading period in order to be eligible to play. Athletes failing a course will be ineligible for competition for three weeks. They may regain eligibility after three weeks if they are passing all subjects at that time. If not, they

remain ineligible for another three weeks. Athletes that habitually earn failing grades on grade reports and/or progress reports become a detriment to the athletic program. They are showing neglect in their responsibility and obligation to their team and the athletic program. They are also neglecting their main purpose for attending school. Failure to take care of his/her grades will result in the athlete being placed on academic probation or removed from athletic competition or the athletic program. **Any athlete who fails TWO consecutive grading periods may be considered for removal from the athletic period.**

Athletic Chain of Command

Both parenting and coaching are difficult vocations. By establishing lines of communication and understanding each position, we are better able to accept the actions of others and provide greater benefits to children. One purpose of this handbook is to provide a line of communication between the athletic department and parents. Hopefully, the handbook will help parents understand what is expected of their child. At the same time, the athletic department hopes to receive support from the parents in enforcing the rules and regulations of the handbook. Despite the communication, it is important to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way the athlete wishes or the parent wishes. At these times, a conference or discussion with the coach may be needed. Please understand that there are appropriate issues to discuss and there are issues not appropriate to discuss.

Appropriate issues to discuss with coaches:

- Treatment of your child
 - Ways to help your child improve
 - Concerns about your child's behavior
- Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:
- Playing time/Other student-athletes
 - Team strategies or Team philosophies

1. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before, during, or after a contest or during a

practice. This can be an emotional time for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution. Productive meetings require calm, rational attitudes in a private setting.

2. Call the coach to set up an appointment.

3. If you are not satisfied with your conference with the coach and/or coaches, you may then set up an appointment with the Athletic Director.

4. After discussing the issue with the head coach and the Athletic Director, you may

then contact the Campus Principal if you feel the situation has not been justly attended to.

Failure to comply with these suggested communication procedures does not expedite any resolution to your concerns. It only causes confusion and in many circumstances prohibits the process of addressing the issues regarding the situation.

Travel

It is the policy of the Boles Independent School District Athletic Department for varsity athletes to travel to and from the site of all athletic events with the team. Except in an emergency situation, an athlete must have prior approval via the completion, submission, and approval of the head coach.

We encourage sub-varsity athletes to travel to and from athletic events with the team, but understand due to many contests taking place on school nights that it is sometimes better for the athletes to ride home with their parents. Sign out sheets will be provided for sub-varsity players to be released to their parents to travel home. If the athlete is being requested to ride with another parent or non-family member, a hand-written note or verbal confirmation via telephone call must be presented before the student can be released to leave.

Conflicts in Extracurricular Activities

The Boles Athletic Department 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. Should an athlete choose to participate in a non-school related club or activity in spite of the commitment to the school sponsored team, the decision of the coach to do what is best in the athlete’s absence from the team for the team will be upheld. This includes non-school league play in all sports, but would NOT include such things as religious holidays, other school sponsored groups or family emergencies.

Equipment Issue and Return

Boles Athletics 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 paid for. The Boles ISD athletic department also reserves the right to enforce the policies on retrieving the funds or replaced items consistent with the replacement of damaged academic items or fines such as textbooks or library/lunch fine policies as set by the BISD administration.

Dress Code/Personal Appearance

Athletes are expected to dress neatly and be well groomed in school and at any activity representing the school. They should recognize that appearance, expression, and actions always influence people's opinions of athletes, the team, and the school. Athletes who habitually violate dress and grooming standards may be subject to disciplinary action including suspension if the violations are not corrected. Follow the dress code guidelines in the student handbook.

Exception: Athletic uniforms and equipment are acceptable during workouts and competition.

Grooming/appropriate dress will be at the discretion of the in-season head coach. Male athletes will not wear earrings when traveling to/from or participating in a contest as a representative of Boles ISD.

Male athletes will be required to cut their hair so that the hair doesn't extend below the collar in the back and extend below the eyebrows in the front. Male athletes will also be requested to keep a clean shave. No excessive side burns, mustaches, beards, or goatees.

Females will be asked to remove excessive piercings such as nose rings, multiple ear studs, or belly button rings prior to participation or travel with a team.

Visible tattoos must be covered at all times of participation and travel. Athletes shall follow additional requests of the coach for game day or team travel.

Discipline

Athletes may face disciplinary action, including possible suspension or expulsion, for demonstrating behavior that is detrimental to the team.

Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to:

- ♦ Unwilling or lazy attitude, poor work ethic
- ♦ Disrespect to the coaching staff or fellow student-athlete
- ♦ Disrespect to a game official
- ♦ Inappropriate use of social media

- ♦ Not responsive to a coach's request
- ♦ Habitual disregard for rules
- ♦ Negative effect on team morale
- ♦ Unsportsmanlike behavior

Dismissal

On some occasions, an athlete will need to be dismissed from a sport due to unacceptable behavior or violations of the athletic handbook. The Boles ISD Athletic Department will determine when suspension and/or removal due to failure to meet expectations of BISD Athletes are necessary. The head coach and Athletic Director will make the determination as to when a dismissal is warranted. Proper documentation and record of prior infractions, past academic performance, school related disciplinary infractions, attendance, drug testing results and the overall wellbeing of the athlete will all be factors considered in a circumstance that calls for the dismissal of an athlete.

Sportsmanship – Athletes/Parents/Spectators

The Boles ISD administration and athletic department feel it is very important that sportsmanship is demonstrated at all athletic contests. Athletes must understand the importance of respecting the decisions of game officials. Spectators should exhibit the same respect to game officials. The officials are impartial arbitrators who are trained and who perform to the best of their ability. Mistakes by all those involved in the contests are a part of the game. Spectators verbally abusing officials with insults, threats and profanity can result in the athletic team being punished under the rules of the UIL. This punishment can result in a team having to forfeit a contest or possibly being

suspended or disqualified from playoff competition. Be sure everyone understands the potential seriousness that could result to the school's athletic program if misbehavior of spectators is reported to Boles ISD Expectations of Spectators, Athletes, and Coaches Good sportsmanship is a must. Be the standard.

- Show respect at all times.
- Profanity will not be tolerated.
- Insults directed to officials, players, coaches, or other fans will not be tolerated.
- No noise-makers are allowed at indoor competitions.
- Only cheers that support the teams will be allowed.

Those unable to exhibit proper sportsmanship will be unable to attend games. Following are a list of behavior expectations of athletes and spectators. These lists appear in the Sportsmanship Manual developed by the UIL. Become aware of these expectations, as well as the ones above, and put them into action. Together we want to present a positive image of Boles to the game officials and to our opponents.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS OF THE STUDENT-ATHLETE

1. Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility, and the privilege of representing your school and the community.
2. Live up to standards of sportsmanship established by the school administration and the coaching staff.
3. Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, and fellow students. This will assist both them and you in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
4. Treat opponents the way you would like to be treated, as a guest or friend. Who better than you can understand all the hard work and team effort that is required of your sport?
5. Wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a courteous manner following either victory or defeat.
6. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. The officials are doing their best to help

promote you and your sport. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will only make a positive impression of you and your team in the eyes of the officials and everyone at the contest.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS OF SPECTATORS

1. Remember that you are at the contest to support and yell for your team, and to enjoy the skill and competition – not to intimidate or ridicule the other team or its fans.
2. Remember that school athletics are a learning experience for students and that mistakes are sometimes made. Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes, and as a person, just as you would praise a student working in the classroom.
3. A ticket is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious.
4. Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
5. Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups.
6. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Understand that they are doing their best to help promote the student-athlete, and admire their willingness to participate in full view of the public.
7. Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
8. Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before, during, and after the game on or near the site of the event.
9. Use only cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.
10. Be a positive role model at events through your own actions and by censuring those around you whose behavior is unbecoming.