

## Burleson ISD Athletic Code

It is the desire of the Administration and Coaching Staff of the Burleson Independent School District (BISD) that participation as a BISD student-athlete is one of the highlights of his/her secondary school career. Being a BISD student-athlete is a **PRIVILEGE**, one that carries with it many responsibilities. A student-athlete has no ordained right to participate in athletics. It is a privilege that has been granted. Therefore, it is possible that the privilege may be taken away. This will be the decision of the head coach and could take place at any level after a parent conference has been held.

As student-athletes in BISD, our young people have a responsibility to reflect an image of positive leadership, character, responsibility, and great competitive spirit.

Participation in the athletic program and/or UIL contests is not a right but a privilege. No student is required to take part in the contest or activities. Therefore, it is imperative that all students taking part in the program understand the Athletic Code and conform to the rules therein and that the coaches of the sport or activity shall have every right to remove these privileges.

The Athletic Code will be in effect for all student-athletes in the BISD to be eligible to participate in any competitive sport or practice or program directly related to improvement in a sport.

The following criteria are expected of our athletes.

- Our athletes will be intense competitors on the field or court, but they are to conduct themselves as gentlemen or ladies at all times and always show respect for all officials, coaches, teachers, and other students.
- Our athletes should always strive for the highest in physical, mental, and ethical standards.
- When we travel to compete against our rivals, our athletes will remember who they are and who they are representing and will conduct themselves accordingly.
- As athletes, they have the opportunity in BISD to receive a quality education that is the primary reason for being here. Pride in their classroom will bring about pride on the playing field or court.
- Athletes must pass in the classroom to be eligible for athletics in accordance with University Interscholastic League (UIL) rules.

### STUDENT-ATHLETE PARTICIPATION

Any student-athlete meeting BISD and UIL residential and eligibility requirements may compete for a position on any athletic team. **Any team placement, position placement, style of play and/or playing time is the sole discretion of the coach and may not be appealed.**

Students selected to a BISD athletic team must recognize this distinction as an honor and privilege and must be held to a higher standard than that of the general school population. The student-athlete is a

recognized representative of the individual school as well as the district and must demonstrate the highest levels of character and behavior.

It is the responsibility of the athletic director and each coach to ensure this high level of expectation. Coaches must monitor the character and behavior of team members **in and out of season, in and out of uniform, and on and off campus**. The inordinate amount of time coaches spend in various curricular and co-curricular activities provides a unique opportunity to observe, assist, and intercede to help the student-athlete make good decisions.

BISD supports education and awareness training on adolescent chemical abuse, including chemical dependency, substance abuse and special issues affecting district student athletes in a helpful, non-punitive way.

## **Section 1: Expectations for Behavior**

The Athletic Code, in conjunction with the Student Code of Conduct, identifies a broad range of behaviors that are detrimental to the progress and success of our athletic programs. These include but are not limited to:

- Falsification of a signature on any UIL required pre-participation forms
- Acts of unsportsmanlike conduct during the sport season in which the athlete is involved including but not limited to cheating, fighting, and abuse of officials, contestants, coaches, or spectators
- Violation of dual participation rule\*
- Use of Social Media in an improper manner that damages the image of the BISD athletic programs or shows disloyalty to the student-athlete's team or coach(es)
- Any violation of the BISD Student Code of Conduct

### **\*DUAL PARTICIPATION RULE**

All athletes participating in BISD Athletics make a commitment to the team, their teammates and their school. Each program demands the dedication of time and energy of the athlete. Part of this commitment is to be a student first and strive for academic excellence. **Another integral part of that commitment is to prioritize the BISD athletic team above participation in any non-school sanctioned activity by attending and participating in all practices and contests scheduled by BISD coaches.**

If a student-athlete chooses to miss a BISD athletic practice or event because of participation in nonschool sanctioned activity, the student-athlete will be suspended for one contest. On the second offense, the student-athlete has chosen the outside activity over a BISD sport, and he/she will be released from the team.

### **ON THE FIELD OR COURT**

The student-athlete must refrain from the use of profanity or resorting to illegal tactics. He/she must learn that both winning and losing are part of the game and that you have to be a good loser as well as a gracious winner. Temper tantrums, flagrant violations of rules, etc., will not be tolerated. Total respect to officials is an absolute must. Discussion of calls made by officials will be handled by the coach. Any behavior contrary to the above-mentioned, or any other act that is not conducive to good sportsmanship, may result in removal from the contest.

## **DISRESPECT TO A TEACHER OR COACH**

Any act of disrespect by a student-athlete to a teacher, coach, or member of school administration will be handled on an individual basis. Punishment may call for suspension from all athletic activities for up to one calendar year from the date of incident. The student-athlete's return is determined by his/her conduct during the period of suspension.

## **PERSONAL APPEARANCE AND GROOMING**

Participation in competitive athletics is completely voluntary on the part of all students. To participate in athletics in BISD, there are certain standards which must be maintained, one of which is acceptable grooming and personal appearance.

- Uniformity: Student-athletes do much traveling to other schools, towns, communities, restaurants, etc. as representatives of the BISD; therefore, they should be groomed in a manner of which our community, school, and sponsors will be proud. We expect our student-athletes to set the example for our school in the area of grooming and personal appearance.
- Self-Discipline: One of the rewards of being a student-athlete is learning to act in a disciplined manner. There is no better way to acquire self-discipline than to make sacrifices. Giving up untidy fads of dress and appearance is a very small sacrifice.
- Hair: In accordance with school policy, hair shall be clean, well groomed, out of the eyes, and shall be styled in a way that is not distracting and/or designed to be conspicuous. The student-athlete's hair should be neatly trimmed/styled to meet his/her coach's satisfaction.
- Dress: The student-athlete should be neatly dressed to include shoes and socks, and to comply with all other school rules relating to dress not covered in this policy.
- Jewelry: UIL regulations will be followed during the competitive season, during practices, and in the off-season.

## **FACILITIES**

- No horseplay such as throwing towels, etc., will be allowed in the shower or dressing rooms.
- All showers should be turned off after use. The last person leaving the shower room should turn off all showers.
- The Training Room is a work office, not a social hall.
- Do not enter the equipment room without coaches' permission.
- Each student-athlete is responsible to see that his/her equipment is in its proper place before leaving.

## **PRACTICE REGULATIONS**

- A coach must be consulted ahead of time if any student-athlete must miss a practice or contest. Missing a contest or practice without permission may result in suspension from the team. (See Dual Participation)
- Obey all rules set up by the coach.
- Profanity will not be tolerated.
- Poor effort will not be tolerated.

## **SCHOOL EQUIPMENT**

- The student-athlete is financially responsible for all equipment checked out to him/her. Wearing or using the same equipment for personal use is considered theft.
- Equipment must not be abused. It must be kept in the proper place in the locker room or on hangers.
- Damaging others' personal belongings while in athletic facilities or competition will result in disciplinary action.

## **THEFT**

- Taking things from other players, students, school, etc., will not be tolerated. Punishment will be handled individually and could involve suspension or expulsion from the athletic program.

## **TRAVEL**

All student-athletes in the middle school and high school represent the community, school, and coaches. Therefore, it is expected that all will dress in an acceptable manner on trips and conduct themselves in a manner in keeping with this code.

- Be on time for all trips.
- Dress neatly as directed by coach.
- Be mannerly in restaurants.
- Each student-athlete is responsible to return his/her equipment to the proper place at school.
- All student-athletes making the trip on the bus will return on the bus except in an emergency type situation or when the parents are present and there is a good reason for returning with the parents. This must be cleared with the head coach prior to the trip.

## **QUITTING**

A student-athlete quitting the team or who is removed after the first contest will:

- Forfeit his or her award (letter and/or letter jacket) for the sport.
- Not be allowed to participate in another sport until the season of the sport he/she quit is completed unless the head coaches of both sports agree that the student would be better off in the other sport.

- A student-athlete quitting the off-season program of one sport may not enter the same type program for another sport that year, unless under the same stipulations as stated above.
- A student-athlete quitting during the season or off-season of a sport can only return to the sport he/she quit with the approval of that sport's head coach.

## **Section 2: Progressive Discipline**

Any BISD student-athlete will be subject to disciplinary action if he/she commits any violation of the Athletic Code. The Athletic Code is based on a philosophy known as "progressive discipline." Progressive discipline means that coaches and administration will take into account whether an infraction is a first offense or a repeated offense. Some offenses may rise to a level of severity that requires a more stringent consequence under the BISD Code of Conduct or Texas state law. In a system of progressive discipline, two students who have committed the same offense may receive different consequences dependent on the student's attitude and his/her previous disciplinary record.

## **Section 3: Consequences**

### **General Consequences**

A student has no right to participate in athletics. It is a privilege that has been granted. Therefore, it is possible that the privilege may be taken away. This will be the decision of the head coach and could take place at any level after a parent conference has been held.

Consequences for student-athlete disciplinary infractions may include (but are not limited to):

- Conference between the coach and the student-athlete
- Conference between the coach, the student-athlete, the parents, and/or administration
- Loss of play time
- Additional expectations for running or exercise beyond what is expected for the team
- Suspension from one or more contests
- Community service
- Removal from the program for the remainder of the season
- Removal from the program for the remainder of the student-athlete's high school career

### **Consequences Specific to BISD Drug Testing (as found in Board Policy FNF(LOCAL))**

For the **first positive test** result, the following measures shall be required:

1. A parent/guardian meeting to discuss the test results and consequences.
2. The student shall be suspended from participating in 40 percent of extracurricular contests as defined by the schedule of contests, and must complete 20 hours of community service. If the

student is in more than one activity, the suspension shall apply to all activities concurrently. Tryouts for any extracurricular activity for the next school year are not affected by this consequence.

3. The student must be retested at the end of the suspension at the cost of the student. The student will be subject to testing on each test date thereafter at the student's cost.
4. The approval of the athletic director/sponsor and head coach must be given before reinstatement into the extracurricular activities.

For a **second positive test** result, the following measures shall be required:

5. A parent/guardian meeting to discuss the test results and consequences.
6. The student shall be suspended from participating in all extracurricular performances or contests for one calendar year. The student must be retested during and at the end of the suspension at the student's cost.
7. The student shall be subject to testing on each test date thereafter at the student's cost.
8. The approval of the athletic director/sponsor and head coach must be given before reinstatement into the extracurricular activities.

For the **third positive test** result, the following measures shall be required:

9. A parent/guardian meeting to discuss the test results and consequences.
10. The student shall be suspended from participating in all extracurricular contests for the rest of the time the student attends school in the District.

A student's **refusal to participate in such testing**, as required or authorized by this policy, shall receive the same consequences as a positive test for each such refusal. Therefore, after a first refusal, the student shall be subject to the same measures as if the student tested positive for the first time. After a second refusal, the student shall be subject to the same measures as if the student tested positive a second time, and so forth.

These consequences for positive drug testing are cumulative during the time the student is in the District's schools. The consequences for positive drug tests also apply to any student in grades 9–12 participating in the extracurricular activity of athletics, cheerleading, or drill team, and any student in the eighth grade who participates in extracurricular athletics, who is reported by law enforcement officials to have been involved with drug activity, such as selling, giving, buying, delivering to another person, possessing or using or being under the influence of any of the substances for which students may be tested under Board policy FNF(LOCAL), as well as use or possession of drug paraphernalia, with each such report resulting in the same consequences under the Athletic Code as if it were a positive drug test.

The suspension of a student from extracurricular activities under the Athletic Code shall have no effect on the student's grades or right of participation in those for-credit classes that are a part of the District's curriculum of course offerings. During the time of suspension and at the discretion of the coach/sponsor, students will be allowed to practice with the team during class time, but are prohibited from any after-school practices or contests.

Students desiring to appeal consequences shall follow the appeal procedures in policies FNG(LEGAL) and FNG(LOCAL).



## STUDENT-ATHLETE INFORMATION RELEASE

STUDENT'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) prohibits the release of student information to third parties without consent. I (parent/guardian/adult student) grant BISD my permission to release information regarding the height and weight of the above named student for limited school sponsored purposes (i.e. Athletic related materials, rosters, and sports programs).

**I have read the above, understand its terms, and agree to them:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*



## VOLUNTARY INSURANCE

Burleson Independent School District does not carry medical insurance for student-athletes who are injured on school premises, while under school jurisdiction, or while they are participating in school district activities. Medical costs from injuries incurred as a result of participation in athletics are the responsibility of the parent/guardians. Every effort is made to prevent injury to our student athletes; however, injury does occur as a normal part of competitive athletic participation. For this reason, Burleson Independent School District recognizes the need for low cost accident and health insurance alternatives for parent/guardians of student/athletes. Supplemental insurance is offered to all students at the beginning of every school year at a cost to the parent/guardians. For enrollment application and brochure, please see the links on the Burleson ISD/High Schools/Our School /Athletics page. If you have additional questions or need assistance, contact **Bene-Marc at 817-738-6899**.

STUDENT'S PRINTED NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## CRITERIA FOR LETTERING IN ATHLETICS

### General Athletic Department Guidelines

- 1) No student-athlete in ANY sport shall receive a letter jacket/award if he or she quits a team before the season is over, or is removed from the team due to disciplinary action.
- 2) Any student-athlete that starts and completes his or her senior season in good standing with the team shall receive a letter jacket.
- 3) In all cases a coach can and has the discretion to consider any student-athlete who has an exception to his or her requirements. Example: Someone moves up to the varsity squad in the latter part of the season and makes significant contributions.

### LETTERING CRITERIA BY SPORT

#### Football

- 1) Any player that participates in thirty (30) percent of the Varsity Competition on the field.
- 2) Any player that participates in a playoff game on the field.
- 3) Any junior that has participated in good standing with the team for three (3) years will receive his letter jacket before the first district game of his senior season.

#### Volleyball

- 1) Any member of the Varsity squad that completes the season in good standing will receive her letter jacket.

#### Cross Country

- 1) Any student-athlete that competes in more than half of the Varsity meets during a season OR places in the top twenty (20) at the district meet.

#### Tennis

- 1) Any student-athlete that places 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or consolation at a Varsity tournament.
- 2) Any student-athlete that competes in at least seven (7) Varsity tournaments (not including duals) of both the fall and spring season.
- 3) Any senior that completes his or her full senior season in good standing with the team.

#### Swimming

- 1) Any member of the squad that competes in five (5) Varsity meets, earns at least one point in the District Meet, and misses no more than six (6) practices.

#### Boys Basketball

- 1) Any student-athlete that dresses for fifteen (15) Varsity games and finishes the season in good standing.
- 2) A jacket may also be earned through other areas of participation with the team subject to the coach's discretion.

#### Girls Basketball

- 1) Any 9<sup>th</sup> grader that plays in seventy-five (75) percent of the Varsity games.

- 2) Any 10<sup>th</sup> grader that plays in seventy-five (75) percent of the Varsity games.
- 3) Any 11<sup>th</sup> grader that plays in fifty (50) percent of the Varsity games.
- 4) Any senior that completes the season in good standing with the team.

#### Power lifting

- 1) Any student-athlete that places in a meet or qualifies for Regional completion.
- 2) Any student-athlete that competes in one-hundred (100) percent of the scheduled competition.

#### Boys Soccer

- 1) Any student-athlete that scores a goal in Varsity competition.
- 2) Any student-athlete that registers two (2) assists in Varsity competition.
- 3) Any student-athlete that competes on the field in playoff competition.

#### Girls Soccer

- 1) Any student-athlete that plays in eight (8) Varsity games and participates in at least one (1) Varsity tournament.
- 2) Any manager that has completed two (2) years on the JV, and two (2) years on the Varsity or completes three (3) years on the JV and one (1) year on the Varsity.

#### Softball

- 1) Any member of the Varsity softball team that completes a season in good standing.
- 2) Any member of the softball team that competes in a playoff competition.

#### Baseball

- 1) Any member of the team that plays in thirty (30) or more innings or has appeared in ten (10) games.
- 2) Any member(s) must be eligible eighty (80) percent of the season.

#### Golf

- 1) Any member of the team that competes in four (4) Varsity tournaments and competes in the District tournament.

#### Track

- 1) Any student-athlete that earns ten (10) points in Varsity meets or earns one point at the District Meet.
- 2) All student-athletes must end the season in good standing with the team to earn a letter jacket.

#### Training

- 1) Any student trainer that works two (2) football seasons and one (1) spring sport.
- 2) Participation in a spring sport as an student-athlete will count as the one (1) spring sport as a student trainer.
- 3) All athletic trainers must remain in good standing with the head athletic trainer at all times.

## VERIFICATION OF RESIDENCE

As the parent(s)/legal guardian(s)\* of student-athlete, \_\_\_\_\_, I (we) understand that participation in any UIL athletic activity in the Burleson Independent School District requires that the student be a bona fide resident of the district and the specific school attendance zone of the school in which UIL participation is requested. A bona fide residence, as defined in Section 442(h) of the UIL's *Constitution and Contest Rules*, is as follows:

"The residence shall be the domicile which is a fixed, permanent, and principal home for legal purposes. The residence is not bona fide under UIL rules unless it complies with all the following criteria:

1. Does the student's parent, guardian, or other person whose residence determines the student's residence own a house or condominium or rent a house, apartment or other living quarters in the school district and attendance zone? *Parents must provide documentation to verify the purchase, lease, or rental of a home located in the new attendance zone. A lease agreement should be for a reasonable duration.*
2. Does the student and the parent or guardian have their furniture and personal effects in the district and attendance zone? *There should be no personal effects or furniture belonging to the family in the previous residence.*
3. Does the student and the parent or guardian receive their mail (other than office mail) in the district and attendance zone? *The family should have submitted a change of mailing address to the Post Office.*
4. Are the parents or guardians registered to vote in the district and attendance zone? *If either of the parents was registered to vote at the previous address, they should have applied for a new voter registration card at the new address.*
5. Do the parents or guardians regularly live in the district and attendance zone and intend to live there indefinitely? *The new residence should accommodate the entire family. The former house should be on the market at a reasonable price, or sold, or the lease or rental agreement terminated. All utilities and telephone service should be disconnected or no longer in the family's name. All licensed drivers in the household should have complied with the DPS regulations for changing their address."*

\*Parent/Legal Guardianship for UIL eligibility must meet the criteria specified in the UIL's Constitution and Contest Rules at Section 442 (a) – (h).

**I certify by signing below that we have read, understand and will abide by all BISSD Athletic Code and UIL rules and regulations.**

STUDENT PRINTED NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_