

White Deer Athletic Contract

PURPOSE:

Participation in White Deer athletics is a privilege that is earned and may be revoked for not following the athletic departments' policies and expectations. These policies were established so that athletes and their parents can understand the expectations associated with being a student athlete. Athletics is not mandatory for graduation from high school, but is offered as an extra-curricular activity.

RATIONALE:

A student who represents White Deer Independent School District in an extracurricular athletic activity is seen as a representative of the district; consequently, high expectations for good behavior have been established. Furthermore, each student is responsible for his/her conduct at all times during the school year as well as during those times when school is not in session. This applies whether on or off school property.

The following extracurricular discipline management plan is designed to establish high expectations/standards for students who choose to participate in extracurricular athletic activities. Our hope is that extracurricular athletic activities:

- Improve the performance of each individual student and contribute to the overall success of the team(s)/program(s).
- Allow the student to serve as a role model to his/her peers as well as other community members.

Students who participate in such activities and organizations gain a strong respect for self, others, and property, as well as establish self-discipline, trust, and acceptance of responsibility for the choices they make. This management plan requires a commitment from students, parents and school personnel as well as a proactive approach to prevention and assistance. This plan includes conduct that occurs away from school, school functions, activities, and events. This plan applies 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for all WDISD students participating or scheduled to participate in athletic programs.

EXPECTATIONS & CONSEQUENCES:

The coaching staff will use his/her discretion for infractions that are not conducive to the development of a model student. The following violations may result in additional practice time, and/or loss of playing time, as well as consequences determined by the coaching staff:

- *Disruptive behavior*
- *Excessive tardies or absences*
- *Unacceptable conduct at school or at a school activity*
- *Unexcused missed practices*
- *Social Media expectations will be established and discussed at the beginning of each season with the coaching staff and the student athletes. Parents may visit with the coaching staff/Athletic Director if they have any concerns regarding the high expectations set with regards to social media. The following WILL NOT be tolerated: posts or requests that are sexual in nature, images or wording that is drug or alcohol related, anything that would portray a negative image for White Deer athletic programs or is slanderous towards a teammate. The coaching staff will bring any concerns regarding behavior by student athletes on social media to the Athletic Director who will then work with administration as necessary.*

Student violations will be transferred to the next athletic program.

- *Use of alcohol or drugs will not be permitted.*
- *Use of tobacco products in any form will not be permitted.*
- *Athletes must make up all missed workouts as well as missed assignments.*

Possession or Use of Alcohol, Tobacco or Drugs:

First Offense:

- Suspension from the next scheduled game, complete tournament, camp, meet, or event
- 1000 word essay on an assigned topic
- Two miles a day for a total of **10** miles – If two miles are not completed each scheduled day, additional suspensions will result.
- Ten (10) hours of approved and documented community service

Second Offense:

- Suspension from the next two scheduled events (This could include games, tournaments, meets, camps, etc.)
- 10 minute research supported speech presented to the team on an assigned topic
- Three miles a day for a total of **25** miles. If three miles are not completed each scheduled day, additional game suspensions will result.
- Fifteen (15) hours of approved and documented community service

Third Offense: Immediate removal from ALL athletic programs for the remainder of the student's eligibility.

*Student offenses carry over to each school year.

Distributing Alcohol, Drugs, or Related Substances:

First Offense: Immediate suspension for 30 school days including first offense corrective measures.

Second Offense: Immediate removal from ALL athletic programs for remainder of student's eligibility.

Selling of Illegal Drugs:

First Offense: Immediate removal from ALL athletic programs for remainder of student's eligibility.

White Deer High School currently offers the following programs: Football, Cross Country, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Power Lifting, Golf, Tennis, and Track. White Deer Junior High currently offers the following programs: Football, Cross Country Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, and Track.

A student must be in the athletic period to participate in a sports program. The only exception would be if an academic situation occurred which hindered the student athletes' graduation plan. All athletes will participate in the athletic class period.

We encourage students to be involved in as many of the athletic programs as they can. We expect equal effort (100%) in all of the programs they participate in. Some of the athletic seasons overlap, thus some athletes are participating in more than one sport at a time. In this case, district and post season meets and/or games take priority over scrimmages or regular season games. If there is a conflict, the athletic director and the program coaches will meet with the student athlete to determine what is in their best interest. All UIL sanctioned events take precedence over non UIL events.

Quitting:

Quitting violates the cardinal rule of "never giving up". Times may become tough during an athletic contest or season, but we must strive forward. If an athlete decides to quit, he/she will give up his/her opportunity for an award in that sport for the year. Unless cleared by the previous coach, he/she may not participate in another sport until the completion of the sports season in which they quit. If an athlete decides to quit, they will be given a two day period to ensure quitting is what they truly want to do. The coaching staff will contact the athlete's parents or guardian to make sure they are aware of the athlete's decision to quit. If an athlete quits a sport and decides it was the wrong decision, they will have one opportunity to rejoin that sport the next season. There will be three requirements in order to do so. First, they must talk to the coach of the sport they quit. Next, they will be required to do five (one a day) consequences. Consequences can be one mile, ten towel pushes, five minutes of grass drills, four super laps, or other similar activities. Last, if the athlete is in high school (9-12) they must provide an explanation to the team on why they deserve a second chance. When the athlete meets these requirements, they can rejoin that sport. If the decision is made to quit the same sport again, there will be no opportunity for the athlete to rejoin the sport for the remainder of their high school eligibility. If the same athlete decides to quit another sport, it will be up to the athletic director and/or administration if the athlete will be allowed to participate in any athletic program.

Practices and Games

- Practices and games are important to the success of each individual/team and are mandatory for an athlete to participate in the athletic program.
- A player should not be tardy or absent from a practice without prior communication with his/her coach. (This does not include situations involving injury or illness.)
- The individual coach will handle excused & unexcused absences for a missed practice. Each coach will have a written policy stating how this will be handled for all athletes in their respective program.
- A student-athlete who has been injured and is under a physician's care must bring a statement from the physician Regarding when the student-athlete is ready to return to practice and/or game participation. Any limiting condition must be clearly stated in the letter. This is for the protection of the student athlete.

Equipment:

School equipment provided to the student-athlete is his/her responsibility. He is expected to keep it in good condition. The athletic department will aid in cleaning and maintenance of the equipment, but the athlete must be sure to understand his or her part in this process. Loss of any equipment is the athlete's financial responsibility. Athletes are expected to wear only WISD gear in team sport practices and at school.

Sportsmanship:

- White Deer School athletes are expected to exhibit the highest level of sportsmanship at all athletic events; home and away, accepting wins and losses with humility. White Deer athletes & coaches do not curse, "trash talk," or use profane language. A player who is guilty of breaking this rule will be benched for a period of time or may be suspended from the team.
- Any athlete who is ejected from a game due to unsportsmanlike conduct will serve a one game suspension. If at the time the player is removed from a game, he/she outwardly displays a negative response toward the officials or coaches for the action taken, he/she will meet with the coach and the Athletic Director.
- If at the discretion of the Athletic Director, the Administration, or head coach, an athlete's play or attitude displays a direction which is contrary to the mission of the athletic program, the parents will be contacted for a conference. If the behavior continues, he/she will be removed from the team.

Parental Roles and Responsibilities:

Interscholastic athletics offers an opportunity for increased school spirit, improved pride in institutional association, and an occasion for family involvement. With full recognition of and respect for parental responsibility, it must be kept in mind that for athletic participation, parents have delegated the responsibility and authority for the young person to the coach. It is reasonable to expect that any parent who has permitted his/her young person to come out for a team should be supportive of the coach. In order for parents to teach respect for authority, the parents must model that respect themselves.

The following guidelines are given to encourage parental support of the coach and the athletic program.

- Parents need to respect the rules and decisions made by those in charge, staying positive about every aspect of the team and coaches. Parents are welcome to ask a coach for a meeting or to ask a question, but simply airing negative opinions to others (including one's children) should not be done. Parents should never approach the coach or their child on the bench during an event, at half- time, or immediately after a game/meet prior to the postgame team meeting. Parents should never enter the locker room. Proper deference should be shown toward the coach by scheduling an appointment with him/her to discuss concerns in private when he/she can offer his/her undivided attention.
- Parents shall respect other fans, coaches and players. It is not appropriate for White Deer fans to confront officials, fans, coaches, or players. White Deer ISD will have a school official at all home games to handle any inappropriate actions or comments. Parents can be removed from UIL athletic events for a game or a season for inappropriate behavior.
- Parental coaching "from the stands" can only be detrimental to the progress of the athlete or team. A coach needs the full attention and concentration of his players. Uninvited parental intervention during these times is a serious distraction and is detrimental to the student athlete and the program.

How do parents get their questions answered or give input?

Parents desiring to have input or have questions answered should use the proper sequence of communication. Whenever possible, the first line of communication needs to be between the athlete and coach. A large part of the educational experience of participating in athletics is the teaching of responsibility. It is important for parents to encourage their child to assume the responsibility of communicating concerns with their coach. The second line of communication needs to be between the parent and the coach. Conferences will not be scheduled on a game/meet day. Conferences need to be scheduled and the conversation needs stay on the subject of the individual child (not other team members) and the concern at hand. Playing time for individual players and coaching strategies will not be discussed. The third line of communication should be with the Athletic Director. This meeting may involve the athlete, the coach, and the parents. If you understand the expectations we have set forth for our student athletes and parents, please sign below. We thank you in advance for your support.

I hereby acknowledge the receipt of the rules and policy outlining extracurricular participation, training rules and expectations. I have read and agree to abide by the standards, policies, and procedures defined or referenced in the extracurricular training expectations.

Student Athlete Signature & Date

As a parent of a White Deer School participant, I agree to help my child abide by the above rules by cooperating with the White Deer ISD staff.

Parent/ Guardian Signature & Date