

BROOKESMITH  
ATHLETIC  
HANDBOOK  
2021-2022



***“COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE”***

**PHILOSOPHY OF THE  
BROOKESMITH I.S.D. ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT**

The Brookesmith Independent School District provides an athletic program for the benefit of the students at this school district. We believe that participation in a respected and competitive athletic program can provide students an opportunity to learn responsibility, self-discipline, leadership, teamwork, respect for rules, pride, loyalty, and healthy living habits.

Our code is established to promote these qualities and to help build and maintain a strong athletic program.

Winning is important and will always be stressed in our athletic program but not at the expense of the individuals that make up our teams. Winning will also not be stressed to the point of endangering our school or community's integrity.

It is recognized that some of the expectations for athletes exceed the expectations for the general student body and some of the rules are stricter than those for the general student body. Athletes are expected to follow the Student Code of Conduct and established rules of the B.I.S.D. Athletic Department. Membership in athletics is a privilege, not a requirement for our students.

Rule violations will result in corrective disciplinary action both by the school district and/or the athletic department. All facts and circumstances will be taken into consideration when determining what actions will be taken. When combinations of rules are violated, punishment will be more severe.

## **Brookesmith ISD Coaching Staff 2020-2021**

Todd Lawdermilk                      Athletic Director/Head Football/Head Boys Basketball/Head Boys Track

Chris Moody                              Head Cross Country/Head Girls Basketball/Head Girls Track

### **PARTICIPATION ELIGIBILITY**

Coaches are responsible for making a diligent effort to understand the interpretations and implementation of all UIL rules. Violations of a rule on the part of an athlete or 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 as defined by the UIL
- Physical exam as defined by the UIL
- PAPF (when applicable) as defined by the UIL
- Emergency contact information
- Steroid Usage Agreement Form as defined by the UIL
- Concussion Acknowledgement Form as defined by the UIL
- UIL waiver (if applicable) as defined by the UIL
- Scholastic Eligibility

### **PRACTICE/GAME ATTENDANCE**

Student-athletes are required to attend scheduled practices and games that adhere to UIL rules. Student-athletes are expected to notify the designated coach of contact for each specific sport they are involved regardless of the nature of the

absence prior to the actual occurrence. Actual real time practice is challenging to replicate. However, upon returning the student-athlete can expect to have a make-up(s) for the missed practice(s) to remediate the lost instructional time at the head coach's discretion. **Student-athletes who do not attend at least half a day of school on the day of competition will not be eligible to participate in an athletic contest hosted that evening. There are exceptions such as medical excuses (doctor's note) and coach's discretion.**

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Student-athletes are required to travel with the sponsors of the specific sport being played both to and from athletic events including practices where transportation is being provided. Parents of our athletes requesting to transport their child from an event where Brookesmith ISD transportation was initially provided must present in writing a request from a legal guardian at least one day in advance. Students will not be allowed to travel with boyfriends/girlfriends from an event. The District sponsor of a trip shall ensure that each student leaves the campus in care of a parent or another designated adult. No student shall be left alone to wait for his or her transportation home when a group returns from a trip. If no parent or other designated adult comes for a student within ninety minutes, the sponsor shall contact the campus principal or athletic director, followed by the Brown County Sheriff's office.

### **PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS**

Students are required by the State of Texas to have a physical examination, by a medical doctor, before entering the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grades prior to involvement in practices or competition. The required forms for such physical examinations can be found on the Brookesmith athletic website or the UIL website.

## **DRESS CODE – GROOMING & JEWELRY**

The athletic dress code will align with the BHS dress code that can be reviewed in the student handbook. In addition to following the dress code adopted by the district our student athletes will adhere to specifically approved game day attire established by the head coach of that sport. In any case, the coaches of that specific sport or athletic director shall have final authority if any type of clothing, attire, haircut, or any other body dress or decoration is deemed distracting to the appropriate competitive environment and may require a student to make changes as needed. As styles/fads change, the school administration reserves the right to adjust dress code standards to maintain a school-appropriate appearance.

## **INJURY POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

All injuries incurred in practices or competitions should be reported immediately to the coach of that specific sport in order that immediate first aid attention can be provided. All doctor's notes need to be returned with specific rehab instructions along with a specific date of re-evaluation or clearance. This communication between doctor, athlete, and coach is paramount to the proper recovery of the athlete.

## **ISSUE OF EQUIPMENT**

Students who are issued equipment purchased by Brookesmith ISD are responsible for that equipment until it is returned to the school. 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 semester in which that sport concluded. Athletes will be required to dress out each day in the appropriate Brookesmith athletic gear. It is the responsibility of the athlete to properly care for and keep up with all issued equipment. Careful laundering is imperative. It is not permissible to allow other

athletes or “civilians” to borrow any school issued items. Girls--wearing make-up is prohibited during athletics, practice, or games because it will sweat off onto your uniforms and ruin them. Males should be clean-shaven.

### **LOCKER ROOM EXPECTATIONS**

The locker room is a common area in which all athletes are able to properly store personal items in addition to athletic issued items in an assigned locker. Personal and athletic issued equipment is expected to be kept locked to prevent loss or damage. Athletes will be provided a lock by the school in order to fulfill their responsibility to secure their personal and issued belongings. To promote a healthy competitive environment, the athlete will ensure that personal and issued items are properly stored in their lockers. The Brookesmith Athletic Department reserves the right to search lockers randomly and does not take responsibility of any items that are lost or stolen. Keep your locker room clean.

### **PARTICIPATION CONFLICT PROCEDURE**

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 sport specific 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 competition/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 conflicting events will be weighed against each other in this decision process and will serve as the determining factor. If the conflicting events include a team sport and an individual sport, the team sport will take precedence over the individual sport. The coach of the team sport may allow the student to attend the individual sport, provided it does not hamper the remaining team.

If, in the opinion of the advisors, both competition/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.

### **EOC ASSESSMENTS**

Practice on the days of EOC tests is allowed unless local policy or administrative directives provide otherwise.

### **ISS & COMPETITION**

Brookesmith athletic department grades 7-12 prohibits students assigned to ISS from participating in extracurricular contests while currently assigned ISS. A student-athlete may resume normal activities upon completing an ISS assignment. The student-athlete will make up any conditioning they have missed due to being placed in ISS.

## **DAEP PLACEMENT**

Brookesmith Athletic policy prohibits students grades 7 – 12 assigned to DAEP from participating in extracurricular activities including but not limited to (practices, contests, meetings, or ceremonies) while currently assigned DAEP. DAEP placement is an automatic removal from the athletic period and program which will conclude at the end of the current school year. Students receiving DAEP placement that continues onto the following school year will not regain athletic eligibility until the end of the fall semester in which the DAEP placement is served.

## **PARENT/COACHES CONFERENCES**

The Brookesmith ISD athletic department recognizes the importance of family involvement and therefore welcomes constructive meetings between parents, coaches, and athletes. It is important to create an environment that is conducive to bringing about productive conversations which are meaningful and based on facts and not emotions. The following are some guidelines Brookesmith ISD would like both parents and coaches to use when meeting:

- Meeting directly after a competitive event is ill advised due to the level of emotion shared by all parties involved in the competition. Coaches primary responsibilities post competition lie with the athletes, coaches involved, facilities, transportation, and equipment security.
- Parents should call to set up a meeting during a time that is convenient for the head coach of that specific sport to meet.
- Even though parents and coaches may agree to disagree, the success of the Brookesmith athletic program, teams and individuals should be paramount regardless the topic of discussion.

- Coaches will not meet with a parent concerning playing time or strategy.
- Upon the completion of a documented parent/coach meeting in which the parent is not satisfied with the outcome, a meeting with the head coach, parent and athletic director can be established at a time convenient for all parties involved.

### **QUITTING OR DISMISSAL**

If an athlete should quit one sport, he/she will not be allowed to participate in another sport or offseason program of another sport until the regular season of the original sport is finished or at the discretion of the coach.

Should an athlete decide that they made a mistake and wish to return to a sport, this will only be allowed after the following criteria are met:

1. The coach agrees.
2. Most of the team agrees.
3. The athlete must meet with the coach, AD, and the athlete's parents.
4. Conditioning work is made up for all missed practices and games.
5. The athlete must run an additional ten miles to demonstrate commitment.

### **PRACTICE EXPECTATIONS**

**\*Practices are mandatory.** Tardies and absences will result in extra conditioning work at the discretion of the coach. The athlete should plan with the coach of the sport if the athlete knows that he/she is going to miss a workout.

Notes from doctors are accepted after an illness or accident.

**Each athlete, unless the absence is school-related, will be required to do make-up work for missed practices and tardies.** Make-up work is not punishment, rather it is designed to make up for the conditioning that the athlete missed by

being late to or absent from a practice or game. The head coach of the sport will determine the make-up work. If tardies and absences are a continual problem, the athlete will lose playing time, be suspended, or permanently removed from athletics.

- Be dressed on the field/court and ready for practice ON TIME every day.
- Be coachable and work hard to improve yourself.
- **No jewelry** will be worn during practices or competitions. If an athlete gets his/her ears pierced during the school year, the earrings will be removed for all practices and competitions. Athletes will NOT put Band-Aides, tape, etc. over the earrings.
- Cover all tattoos as much as possible.
- Injured or ill athletes who are unable to participate, but are able to attend a practice, meeting, or event are required to dress appropriately and sit or stand with the rest of the team.
- Put the team first.

## **CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS**

Athletes are expected to conduct themselves as fine, young citizens always.

Athletes are expected to be on time to class and display excellent citizenship in the classroom as well as everywhere else on campus and in the community. We expect our athletes to be leaders in the classroom and show the utmost respect to teachers, administrators, staff, and fellow students. We will treat other teams and their facilities as we would treat our own. Cursing is not acceptable at any time. Using foul language and gestures is disrespectful and discourteous. It does not make you sound tough, only insecure. The coaching staff will hand out disciplinary action in the form of conditioning work for any offenses. You are representing the Brookesmith Athletic Program, Brookesmith ISD, and

Brookesmith, Texas twenty-four hours a day/seven days a week. Please keep that in mind.

### **DETRIMENTAL SUBSTANCES-TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, AND DRUGS**

Tobacco, alcohol, and drugs have no place in the life of an athlete. They are not only against the law, but they are also detrimental to the health and performance of the athlete.

Disciplinary action for the use or possession of these substances will be determined by the following standards: (1) admission of guilt by the athlete, (2) visual confirmation by a member of the athletic staff or school administration of an offense. It should be noted that the athletic department is not a police force. We will not act on rumors and hearsay. If there is a question as to guilt, we will wait until the outcome of any court proceedings until acting.

Disciplinary action for violations, in addition to those mandated by school administration, will be at the discretion of the Athletic Director and the head coach. All discipline must be completed before the athlete may participate in another game or interschool scrimmage.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I acknowledge that I have received, read, and understand the Brookesmith Athletic Department Handbook.

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Athlete's Name (Print)

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Parent's Name (Print)

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Athlete's Signature

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Parent's Signature

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Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date