

STRATFORD ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Athletic Director/Head Football: Matt Lovorn
Girls Coordinator/Head Girls Basketball: Lance Horsford
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ATHLETIC OBJECTIVE

The combination of sports and academics can be a tremendous experience in a young person's life. A broad and sound sports program for all students can provide invaluable experiences for the participants.

A sound, wholesome sports program will contribute to and offer involvement to all students as participants, support groups, or as spectators. It will also serve the community by providing entertainment and establishing a common ground of interest which will draw citizens together in support of the various sports activities.

It is important to see athletics as a part of the total educational program. It should both complement and contribute to the overall educational process. For many students it is the most effective climate for learning the invaluable lessons for personal integrity, determination, self-confidence, proper mental attitude, individual and group responsibilities and the desire to achieve high goals; all of which should be the basic objectives of any sound educational system.

With this in mind, the following guidelines will be in place for all athletes in the Stratford ISD athletic program.

1. Failure to pass any academic course will cause athletes to lose eligibility for a time as prescribed by the UIL. Continued failure may lead to dismissal from the team. Weekly progress reports will be passed out to the teachers. Those athletes having an average below 73 in any class will be required to attend a weekly tutorial period directed by the campus principal until their grade improves.
2. The use of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or disrespect will not be tolerated. Lying to or stealing from coaches or players will not be tolerated. Athletes who choose to do these things will suffer these consequences in addition to other Stratford ISD policies.

First offense

Punishment to be determined by the Head Coach. It should be swift and reasonable. It should not affect team, if possible.

Second offense	Athletes will be suspended from competition for a one-week period(7 days). He/she will be required to run 10 miles during that time or they will remain suspended until completion.
Third offense	Athletes will be suspended from activities for a three-week period. He/she will be required to run 20 miles during that time or they will remain suspended until completion.
Fourth offense	Athletes will be suspended from activities for at least a one year period. At the end of this period; the Athletic Director may, at his discretion, reinstate the athlete if a desire to return has been shown.
Fifth offense	Athlete is terminated from all activities.

Offenses are cumulative throughout a student's High School career. The burden of proof is on the school. Police reports or coaches personal knowledge is needed for proof.

3. An excused absence from an Athletic activity is one in which a coach knows about it beforehand or when an athlete has a doctor note. Other exceptions could apply. The Head Coach will assign make-up work.
4. An unexcused absence from an Athletic activity is one in which a coach does not know about before hand. The Head Coach will be responsible for Athletic make-up work. Continual abuse could lead to suspension or dismissal from the team.
5. Unexcused Athletic tardies will be dealt with by the Head Coach of the sport.
6. Athletes will conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen at all times. We will be noted for our clean, tough, competitive play. Failure to follow this rule will result in disciplinary action. This disciplinary action will be up to the Head Coach. Continual abuse could lead to suspension or dismissal.
7. Our athletes will be issued the best possible equipment. It is the athlete's responsibility to keep up with this equipment. If equipment is lost, it is the athlete's financial responsibility.

8. Quitting is an intolerable habit to acquire. A quitter may lose the privilege of participation in athletics. An athlete may quit a sport and remain in the athletics program if the Head Coach and Athletic Director agree. Obviously extenuating circumstances will be dealt with separately. Also note that any athlete who quits or is dismissed from a sport forfeits that sports athletic award.
9. Athletes will be required to attend spring off-season workouts if they intend to participation in football or basketball the next year. Extenuating circumstances will be dealt with separately.
10. Boy's Athletic Program: If an athlete chooses not to play football but wants to participate in basketball there are two options for the athlete: (1) The athlete can remain in the athletic period during football season and participate as manager for the football program. When football season ends they will join the basketball program with the other basketball participants. (2) Pending class schedule approval by the campus principal the athlete can take a non-athletic class during football season. Once football season ends they will drop the non-athletic class and join the basketball program with the other basketball participants during the athletic period. (Note: a student dropping a class during the school year will most likely lose credit for that class.)
11. Athletes that have been indicted by a grand jury will be suspended from competition after receiving the indictment until the charges are dropped against the athlete. The rule will be consistent with the Texas High School Coaches Association Code of Ethics. Athletes charged with a serious crime may, at the Athletic Directors discretion, be suspended.
12. Profanity will not be tolerated. If an athlete slips, he/she will be required to serve consequences as determined by the coach.
13. Conflicts between extra-curricular activities can and will occur. When such conflict does arise, the sponsors of such activities will get together to find a workable solution so that the student does not feel in the middle. If a solution cannot be worked out, the decision will be based on the following: 1. The importance of each event, 2. The importance of the event to the athlete, 3. Talking with the parents as needed, 4. The final decision rests with the student and the principal.
14. Athlete's dress and appearance will be consistent with school policy. Ragged jeans and t-shirts are not appropriated for travel. Girl's hair will be neat with no unnatural color. Boy's hair will be neat, will not extend on their collar, will not extend below the middle of the ear, and will have no unnatural color in it. There will be no designs or odd cuts for boys or girls. Boys will have no facial hair or piercing. Athletes will not participate in contest if these conditions are not followed.

15. The Athletic Director or Head Coach of each sport have the right to make other rules that they think are necessary.

ATHLETIC LETTERING POLICY

An athletic letter award (letter or jacket) should require serious sacrifices on the part of the student athlete. The school letter should be symbols of not only school pride, but also of hard work and dedication in the classroom and on the playing field. If they are handed out as “favors,” then the value of the award is diminished for all that have earned theirs the right way. If sacrifices were not made, then the athlete does not deserve it.

In order to receive an athletic award each athlete must participate and complete district competition on the varsity team.

By U.I.L. rules, each athlete can be awarded one (1) letter jacket during their high school career.

FOOTBALL:	3 or More Varsity Games
BASKETBALL:	10 or More Varsity Games
TRACK:	3 or More Varsity Meets(must point at District Meet)
CROSS COUNTRY:	3 or More Varsity Meets
GOLF:	1 or More Varsity Tournaments

AND/OR have the unreserved recommendation of the head coach of the varsity sport participated in.

Parents and athletes, please sign and return this form to show that you have received a copy of the Stratford Athletic Policy. By signing this form, you agree to abide by the rules set forth in this policy.

Thank you,

Matt Lovorn, Athletic Director

Print athlete's name

Athlete's signature

Date

Parent's signature

Date