

**WHITEWRIGHT INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**



**ATHLETIC HANDBOOK  
2019-2020**

## **FOREWORD**

The philosophy of the athletic program at Whitewright ISD is founded on the understanding that participation in athletics is a valuable part of a student's educational experience. This participation is an opportunity that carries responsibilities to the school, the team, the community, and to the student/athlete. The purpose of the athletic program at Whitewright is to aid the total educational process and to help develop young people into good sound citizens of the community. The program is coordinated to help our athletes develop physically, mentally and morally. Every young person should be given the opportunity and encouragement to participate in athletics at Whitewright if they are willing to follow the rules and guidelines established by the Whitewright Independent School District. What is taught in our program is the importance of hard work, a commitment to excellence, and the value of teamwork. These ideas will allow the student athlete to learn how to work well with their teammates and aid them in how to interact with other people throughout their entire life. The desire to excel, coupled with a positive learning environment and proper discipline, will hopefully motivate the young athletes to be responsible, successful members of society, and, ultimately, leave their mark on this world by making it a better place for future generations.

**OBJECTIVES:** School athletics have a tremendous potential for meeting the needs of our youth. Therefore, an intensive, well-balanced program of interscholastic sports should be offered to all students. Interscholastic athletics for the physically gifted represents an area of great potential for practicing the pursuit of excellence.

**PURPOSE:** The basic purpose of the WWISD Athletic Program and its operation is to help each student become the very best person that he or she can be. In order to accomplish this purpose, the coaches and directors of this program must work with the students and their parents to:

1. Contribute toward a well-rounded maturation of the student academically, socially, physically, and emotionally.
2. Develop an awareness of the vital importance attitude plays toward success in any endeavor.
3. Encourage achievement to its greatest potential in academic areas.
4. Encourage awareness with regards to mannerisms, behavior, dress and general appearance.
5. Teach, develop, and exhibit high moral and ethical values.
6. Teach the pursuit and practice of excellence in competition.

7. Develop skills and attitudes of lifelong recreational values.
8. Increase self-reliance and capacity for hard work.
9. Emphasize and encourage self-discipline essential for adult life.

**NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION:** Prior to participation, an athlete must have the following on file:

1. Pre-Participation Physical
2. Medical History
3. Acknowledgement of Rules
4. Steroid Testing
5. WWISD Athletic Code
6. Concussion Acknowledgement Form
7. Sudden Cardiac Arrest Form
8. Emergency Notification

*In conjunction with WWISD board policy, any student not covered under a parent/guardian's major medical insurance, will be provided information on student insurance coverage. However, the school does not pay any premiums or compensation for insurance. In no way does the school district at any time assume any liability for any injury incurred at any time and in no event shall be responsible for any payment above and beyond the limits of the insurance policy in force at the time of the injury.*

**PARTICIPATION:** It is the goal of the athletic program to offer the opportunity of participation to every student who has the ability and desire to do so. Interscholastic athletics fosters competition and cooperation. Therefore, no student is obligated to take part in athletics nor is participation in athletics required for graduation. It is stressed that participation in the WWISD Athletic Program is a privilege, not a right. Since it is a privilege, the coaching staff, in accordance with the WWISD Policy and Due Process Procedures, has the authority to suspend or revoke the privilege when the rules and standards of the Athletic Program are not followed.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION:**

1. Students must participate in one interscholastic athletic activity providing they conform to other adopted policies regulating participation and are found to be physically fit by a licensed physician.
2. Participants in team sports must participate in the off season training program for the student during the school year when they are not engaged in other sports.
3. Students may represent WWISD in interscholastic athletics after they have

participated in practice for a period of time specified by the head coach of the sport.

4. Participation in a sport is a prerequisite for participation in the athletic period.

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ATHLETE:** The privilege of representing the WWISD Athletic Program causes many things to be expected of you by your principal, coaches, teachers, parents, community, and most of all, by your teammates and classmates. Athletes are always on display. You are judged by the company you keep. Your actions in everyday life, both private and public, are a direct reflection on this athletic program, your teams, and your school. All athletes have the responsibility to play to win, give their best effort, strive for excellence, and exhibit good conduct at all times in a manner that is a credit to his/her school. The fact that an individual has chosen to participate in interscholastic athletics is indicative that each athlete has taken into consideration the rewards, privileges, and pleasure that can be obtained from participation. It is also indicative that each athlete understands the price that must be paid in meeting responsibilities, following rules and regulations, and meeting the demands that are placed on each individual athlete. Failure to follow guidelines and policies in this publication may result in your removal from athletics.

**SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES:**

**DURING COMPETITION, AN ATHLETE:**

1. Learns that both winning and losing are part of the game and to accept both.
2. Does not use illegal tactics in an attempt to defeat the opponent or to beat the rules of the game.
3. Has complete control of himself/herself at all times. Clowning, displays of temper, use of profanity, disrespect of coaches or officials will result in disciplinary action from the head coach.

**ON CAMPUS, AN ATHLETE:**

1. Must maintain proper dress and appearance, good grooming, and personal cleanliness.
2. Will not wear jewelry or earrings in athletic areas or during athletic events.
3. Will refrain from fighting, scuffling, and juvenile behavior.

**IN THE ATHLETIC PERIOD AND PRACTICE, AN ATHLETE:**

1. Must notify the coach if he/she must miss a workout. This is the responsibility of the athlete. Failure to report your absence or excessive absences may result in disciplinary action or suspension.

2. Will be prompt for roll call. Tardiness is unacceptable.
3. Will maintain neat and clean dressing rooms.
4. Will abide by the head coach's policies regarding more stringent guidelines to proper dress and attire, health and safety standards, and personal grooming habits that may be deemed necessary for the particular sport.
5. Will give 100% to the sport that he/she is involved.
6. Will refrain from using obscene language and gestures or any unsportsmanlike conduct of any manner.
7. Will respect coaches and fellow teammates at all times.
8. Will be responsible for the proper care of all issued clothing and/or equipment. The athlete will be required to pay for any clothing and/or equipment that is lost, damaged, or destroyed.

**DURING TEAM TRAVEL, AN ATHLETE:**

1. All varsity athletes will travel to and from all out of town contests with the team. All regular school transportation rules and regulations apply when on athletic trips. Remaining with the team at all times will help build the team concept and unity. Exceptions will be made in the event of a family emergency or transporting to another school related function.
2. Junior varsity and junior high athletes may ride home with parent/guardian with proper sign-out and personal contact with head coach BEFORE leaving athletic event. By law, athletes are not allowed to leave an event with anyone other than the parent/guardian. Written documentation must be provided to the head coach, in advance of departure, if athlete needs to ride home with someone other than their parent/guardian.
3. Will dress neatly and properly on all trips. Coaches will specify the attire.
4. Will conduct himself/herself properly in any school vehicle.
5. Will conduct himself/herself with dignity and proper manners.
6. Will be on time for departure. The bus will not wait.
7. Will not be allowed to bring family members or friends on bus trips.
8. Will refrain from bringing radios, electronic games, etc... on away bus trips.
9. Will keep all cell phones turned off prior to any athletic competition and practice and be aware that the Athletic Department may take up their cell phone if in violation.

\*Team meals may be provided for any athletic competition which requires traveling a distance of two or more hours. Any team or individual that advances past district play will have meals, lodging, and transportation provided by the school.

**SELECTION OF TEAMS:** The head coach of each sport will determine the teams. The selection

of teams will include, but is not limited to: skill level, knowledge of sport, attitude and experience in the sport. Junior High “B” team, freshman, and JV teams will have an opportunity for playing time. It is our belief that these teams need to develop skills, knowledge, and gain experience through playing. Junior High “A” team and the Varsity teams are **not** guaranteed equal playing time. Playing time will not be discussed. Only ways to improve in those areas that may be affecting playing time will be discussed.

**ELIGIBILITY/GRADES/TUTORIALS:** The WWISD coaches and administration shall determine each student’s eligibility according to UIL rules and regulations as specified in the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules. Whitewright ISD strictly adheres to these rules and regulations. UIL and the State Board of Education “No Pass-No Play” rules are strictly enforced. In addition, WWISD wants its athletes to be top academic students. Each athlete must realize that he/she is a student first, and an athlete second. The student must give sufficient time and energy to his/her studies to insure acceptable grades to meet the UIL requirements for participation. Students who do not maintain passing grades or who are missing assignments due to unacceptable reasons may be subject to suspension from athletic competition at any time. Coaches will regularly check student averages in all courses. Students may be required to attend tutorials if their grades are not acceptable.

Any student failing one six weeks during the school year will be placed on a contract, and required to meet an academic plan. Any student failing two consecutive six weeks in a row or two six weeks within a semester will be removed from team/individual competition and placed on an academic plan. If standards are not met on the contract, the athlete may be removed for the remainder of the year.

**ISS/AEP/CODE OF CONDUCT:** Any athlete who is placed into alternative education arrangement (AEP or home suspension) will not participate in practices and/or competitions for any extracurricular activity for the duration of the alternative education arrangement. Extended time (3 days or more) may result in dismissal from any season sport at the discretion of the Athletic Director. Any athlete disciplined under the student code of conduct could be subject to suspension or dismissal from the athletic program at the Athletic Director’s discretion. Athletes in violation of code of conduct will be placed on a contract. **All player suspensions by a coach must be with the Athletic Director’s approval.** Any athlete receiving ISS on the day of an athletic competition is ineligible to participate in that competition. An athlete receiving ISS on the days prior to an athletic competition is subject to loss of playing time based on the head coach’s discretion. An athlete that receives ISS or AEP due to tardiness will not automatically be dismissed from an in-season sport. Disciplinary action will be taken and will be at the discretion of the head coach and Athletic Director.

**CORPORAL PUNISHMENT:** Texas state law allows for corporal punishment. Whitewright ISD requires that only certified employees may use corporal punishment, in private, with another certified employee as a witness. This means, Whitewright coaches may use this option of discipline in the athletic program. However, this option will not be used if:

- Parent/guardian files a written request with the Athletic Director not to use corporal punishment, or
- The athlete requests no corporal punishment

**ATTENDANCE/ABSENCES/TARDIES:** Athletes are expected to be at all practices and all competitions on time and remain for the duration. It is the athlete's responsibility to notify the head coach if he/she must miss a practice or competition. By becoming a member of the Whitewright Athletic Program, you are making a commitment to the program. **An unexcused absence from a game will result in suspension of the next scheduled game. Playing time will be at the head coach's discretion for an absence on the day before or the day of a scheduled game.**

An excused absence is that of an illness, emergency, school related function, or at the coach's discretion. In such cases, the athlete must present the coach and/or athletic director a written note from the parent/guardian, immediately following the incident or a note from school personnel prior to the game. Three consecutive absences necessitate a doctor's excuse.

As with any other activity, please be aware that excessive tardiness or absences result in a loss of practice/instructional time. This loss of time could subject the athlete to loss of playing time or even dismissal from the team. Make up conditioning will be required for any tardy or absence at the discretion of the head coach.

**PARTICIPATION WHEN ILL OR INJURED:** Any athlete who is injured during the course of the season or has an illness of a minor nature and is unable to participate due to this injury or illness must continue to follow all expectations, rules and regulations, if the athlete wishes to remain a part of the team. The athlete will not participate but will be required to dress out and attend all practice sessions and sit with the team during competitions. Failure to attend practices and competitions while injured can result in dismissal from the team. Athletes learn from each practice session, whether they are actually working out or simply observing.

If injured during practice or participating in a school-sponsored event, the parent/guardian will receive a Student Insurance Claim form from the Athletic Director.

**PRACTICE TIMES/SCHEDULES:** According to UIL rules, school teams shall be prohibited from

practicing team skills before or after school except during specified practice dates, set forth by the UIL, and during the one allowable period during the school day. Practice schedules for each sport will be arranged by the respective coach in conjunction with the Athletic Director and other coaches of in-season sports. Attempts will be made to insure that practice times for one sport will not interfere with practice times for a coinciding sport. With the growing number of students participating in athletics, some practice sessions may be held before the school day begins.

**OFF SEASON PROGRAM:** The purpose of the off season program is to improve the athletic program by enhancing each athlete's abilities. Drills and activities to improve speed, strength and agility will be utilized. **It is mandatory for all athletes to participate in an off season program, if they wish to participate in athletics the following year.** An off season program will be used for those athletes that do not wish to participate in a sport.

**NON-SCHOOL PARTICIPATION (SUMMER PARTICIPATION):** Non-school participation is limited by the UIL; however the purpose of non-school participation is to allow all athletes an equitable opportunity to participate in the sports of their choice outside of the season and throughout the summer. Coaches will provide students and parents a menu of opportunities based on the athlete's abilities and experience with the sport. Some activities will not be suitable for all athletes due to some events being for varsity level play. In those instances other participation options will be provided to students but may not be at the same time as the exclusive event. The UIL states the following rules for non-school participation. Students must arrange transportation to all events. Students must provide their own equipment, uniforms, and first aid supplies. Students must pay for all fees associated with the event. Non-school participation is not a requirement to be selected for a team. Because coaches cannot coach during non-school participation, parents and former students may be selected to coach the team.

Parents and students are welcome to create their own select group of athletes to participate in tournaments, rec leagues, and/or camps, and the requirements under non-school participation do not apply because this is not considered a school-sponsored activity that would be governed under UIL rules.

**SELECT/CLUB SPORTS:** In the case of a non-school related athletic event conflicting with a school related athletic event, priority will be given to the school athletic event. Consequences for violating this rule will be at the discretion of the head coach of the in-season sport and/or the Athletic Director.

**DROPPING/QUITTING A SPORT:** There will be times when an athlete finds it necessary to quit

playing a sport before, during, or after the season has begun. **An athlete may not quit one sport to play another sport.** The following procedures should be followed in order to drop/quit a sport:

Examine the situation before a decision is made.

Talk to the coach to see if a solution can be reached (A parent conference may be required.)

If the decision to quit is made, the athlete must check out of the sport through the Athletic Director and/or Girls Coordinator. All clothing/equipment issued to an athlete must be returned in the same shape it was in when it was issued to the athlete. Payment for any lost or damaged clothing and equipment will be required. An athlete who decides to quit one sport to join another must wait until the first sport has completed its season before he/she will be allowed to join the new sport.

Coaches, in conjunction with the Athletic Director, reserve the right to prohibit any athlete from joining a team or sport if that athlete has routinely failed to complete seasons in other sports which they have started. Failure to participate in the mandatory off-season program also constitutes dismissal from the athletic program. Routinely quitting sports may result in dismissal from the athletic program.

**CONSEQUENCES FOR QUITTING A SPORT:** During the first 2 weeks of the sport, an athlete is able to make the decision to quit without any consequences. After the 2 week grace period, consequences for quitting are as follows:

Quit during non-district play .....10 miles + mandatory off-season before joining the next sport

Quit while in-district play.....20 miles + mandatory off-season before joining the next sport

**LETTERING POLICIES:** Athletes may receive from the school only one major award during their high school career. In order to letter in a sport, the athlete must be on a varsity team and satisfy the requirements stated below. Coaches must consider the following before nominating an athlete for a letter.

### **WISD Letter Jacket Policy**

Letter jackets will not be awarded until the student enters the 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

## **Athletics**

Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Track, Golf,  
Tennis, Powerlifting

Completed two years in a specific sport, or completed one year  
varsity participation.

**ATHLETIC DRESS CODE:** In addition to following regular school rules regarding dress code (found in the student handbook), athletes have additional expectations in regards to hairstyles and jewelry. The length of male athlete's hair may not be longer than the top of the collar. Ponytails on male athletes are not acceptable. Female athletes, who have long hair must wear hair, including long bangs, pulled back from the face during all athletic practices and competitions. In accordance with UIL rules and regulations, for safety reasons, athletes are not allowed to wear jewelry of any kind during any athletic competition. For the same reason, jewelry will not be allowed during athletic practices.

**UNIFORMS – PRACTICE:** Every athlete will be issued a set of practice clothes. **These clothes will be worn at practice only and should be worn at every practice.** Practice clothes should be taken home. Consequences for not being dressed out in proper practice attire will be at the discretion of the head coach.

**CRIMINAL CHARGES:** Any athlete legally accused of, arrested for, or convicted of a felony or misdemeanor (other than a traffic violation) will be subject to suspension from all athletic competitions, or other disciplinary action if not an in-season sport, until the matter has been cleared through the courts or punishment has been served. The athlete will be expected to participate in all practices during that time in order to remain in the athletic program. Depending on the severity of the charges and the outcome of the case, an athlete may be suspended for one or more games, dismissed from that sport for the remainder of the year, or dismissed from the athletic program for the remainder of the year. If the athlete is not found guilty or all charges are dropped, then the athlete will be reinstated in the athletic program at the Athletic Director's discretion. An athlete who is placed on probation maybe allowed to compete in athletic competitions after a conference between the parent/guardian, the athlete, the head coach, and the Athletic Director; at which time a contract will be drawn up establishing the behaviors expected of the athlete.

**RANDOM DRUG TESTING:** All Whitewright ISD students involved in extracurricular activities from grades 7-12, and students who park on school grounds, shall be subject to random testing

throughout the school year for the presence of alcohol or illegal drugs. Parental consent is required for testing to be done. Any student who does not obtain parental consent **will not** be allowed in the athletic program. The main reason for drug testing is to get help for those athletes who might be experimenting with drugs.

WWISD shall employ a drug-testing program with the following objectives:

- A. Provide a deterrent to drug/alcohol use for students in grades 7-12.
- B. Ensure the health and safety of students representing Whitewright ISD.
- C. Recommend a drug education program for those students who test positive for drug/alcohol use and for those students who are at risk for drug use.

Testing shall be done in accordance with the established practices and procedures as established by the drug testing laboratory affiliated with WWISD.

#### **1st Positive Test**

- Parents/guardians will be notified.
- Student will receive drug counseling.
- Student will be required to submit to random drug testing for a calendar year.

#### **2nd Positive Test**

- Parents/guardians will be notified.
- Student will receive drug counseling.
- Student will be suspended from all extracurricular activities and/or parking privileges for a calendar year.
- The Student must test negative for all drugs and alcohol for a calendar year before he/she will be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities and/or park on campus.

#### **3rd Positive Test**

- No longer eligible to participate in athletics.

#### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

- Results of any drug test administered under this policy shall be used only for determining eligibility for participation in school sponsored extracurricular activities and parking on campus grounds.
- Records of positive tests will be maintained by the principal in a secure location and disclosed only to the appropriate school personnel, the student, and the student's parent/guardian.
- Upon graduation, the information will be destroyed and under no circumstances will this information become part of the student's permanent file, nor will it be sent to another school in case the student moves to another school district or transfers to another school.

**\*\*A complete guideline to the Whitewright ISD drug testing procedures can be found on our website at [www.wisd.com](http://www.wisd.com)\*\***

### **RANDOM TESTING**

Random tests shall be conducted on as many as ten dates throughout the school year. No less than ten percent and no more than 50 percent of the students participating in the program shall be randomly selected for each random test date. The drug-testing laboratory shall use a random selection method to identify students chosen for random testing. Students shall not receive prior notice of the testing date or time.

### **REFUSAL TO TEST OR TAMPERING**

A student who refuses to be tested when selected or who is determined to have tampered with a sample shall be deemed to have a positive test result and shall be subject to the appropriate consequences depending on previous positive test results, if any.

### **RETESTING**

If the student wishes to return to participation in extracurricular activities, the student must be retested at the end of the period of suspension and have a negative test result; the student shall be retested on all remaining random tests dates for that school year.

### **OTHER DRUG, ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, VAPING, E-Cigarettes, & STEROID USE CONSEQUENCES:**

All regular school rules of conduct apply, including strict enforcement of rules regarding alcohol tobacco, vaping, and drugs (found in the student handbook and the Whitewright ISD discipline management plan). All offenses and disciplinary actions are at the discretion of the Athletic Director and the head coach of the sport in compliance with district policies. In addition, state law provides that body-building, muscle enhancement, or increasing muscle bulk or strength through the use of an anabolic steroid or human growth hormone by a person who is in good health is not a valid medical purpose. Only a medical doctor may prescribe an anabolic steroid or human growth hormone for a person.

### **MISCELLANEOUS:**

**ATHLETIC BANQUET:** In the spring, the Athletic Department will host a high school athletic banquet honoring all students who participated in athletics during the year. Athletes will be informed of appropriate dress. All athletes are expected to attend the banquet.

**ATHLETIC PASSES:** Athletic passes will not be issued this year. Athletes must present their student ID to enter all home events free of charge. **No exceptions!**

**FUND-RAISING:** While many sports do not need fund-raising campaigns, some sports may ask athletes to participate in various fund-raisers for specific intents. All rules regarding fundraisers are the same for regular school fund-raising (found in the student handbook).

**HAZING:** The district prohibits hazing. Hazing means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act directed against a student, by one person alone or acting with others, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are, or include, other students.

**SOCIAL MEDIA** - It is important that students not use social media inappropriately. Examples of inappropriate use of social media include: bullying, threats, demeaning comments, references to alcohol/drugs, posting inappropriate pictures, etc.

Although it is not the duty of the sponsor to monitor students' social media, when inappropriate posts are brought to their attention, they will use the following procedures:

1. 1st Offense Sponsor directed consequences
2. 2nd Offense Suspended for 1 contest / game / performance
3. 3rd Offense Suspended for the remainder of the semester

**Parents and Fans Causing a Disturbance or Removed from a School Related Contest or Event**  
An individual causing a disturbance, ejected, or removed from a contest or event by any school official will be subject to further disciplinary action at the discretion of the school Superintendent.

#### **PARENT COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL**

Parents are encouraged to partner with the athletic coaches by encouraging their students to bring concerns directly to the coach. If the parent feels that the concern is not resolved, the parent must follow the chain of command to resolve the concern:

1. The coach or assistant coach
2. Boys or Girls Coordinator
3. Athletic Director
4. Superintendent

## 5. Board of Trustees

It is preferred that the parent wait 24 hours following a game to contact the coach to schedule a conference as coaches have been directed to not hold a parent meeting immediately before or after a game or practice. Please note that all parent concerns will remain confidential and will not be shared in order to protect the confidentiality and dignity of the student and parent.

**PERSONAL BELONGINGS:** Athletes should not leave personal items, especially jewelry or money, in areas unsupervised. Each athlete is issued a locker and a combination lock to secure personal property. **Whitewright ISD and the Whitewright Athletic Department is not responsible for lost or stolen items.**

**CONSEQUENCES FOR HANDBOOK VIOLATIONS:** Each coach shall have the authority, with the concurrence of the Athletic Director, to suspend or place on probation any athlete for major or minor infractions of the standards set forth in this athletic handbook. By signing the acknowledgement form you are agreeing to the terms and conditions set forth by the Whitewright Athletic Department.

Acting either upon the recommendation of the coach, or in his best judgment, the Athletic Director may suspend or place on probation for the duration of the term, duration of the seasonal activity, or the duration of the school year any athlete for a major infraction of the standards set forth in this athletic handbook.

**WHITEWRIGHT ATHLETIC CODE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM**

I understand that playing UIL sports at Whitewright ISD is a privilege and not a right. By signing below, I am stating that I have read and understand the Whitewright Independent School District Athletic Handbook and Code of Conduct. I hereby state that I will adhere to the conditions that have been established and pledge to cooperate and see that my child complies with these standards.

Student Athlete Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Student Athlete Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_