

WELLS ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

PURPOSE

This handbook is written to clarify the expectations of students participating in the Wells I. S. D. Athletic Program. The statements and expectations herein will supersede the general Student Body Handbook for all students in the Wells Athletic Program. **Remember, athletic participation is considered a privilege and the expectations of athletes are higher than those of non-athletes.**

PHILOSOPHY

Athletics are an integral and desirable part of the total educational process for those students who are selected and choose to accept the tenets required for participation. The process of athletics is an important factor, not just the end result of winning or losing. We will do everything possible to win. We will coach to win, teach to be winners, and build upon existing character of our athletes through the drive to win within the rules. However, it is far more important to us that our student-athletes are winners off the court, in the classroom, and in the community. Character, responsibility, leadership, discipline, teamwork and respect for oneself and others are valuable assets developed through athletic participation. Student-athletes also develop a competitive attitude that will continue throughout life. Attitude, discipline and work ethic are important intangibles that athletes in the program will develop. **Participation in the Wells Athletic Program is optional and shall not be required; however, for those who are selected and choose to participate in the program, stringent expectations involving behavior, discipline, hard work and academic achievement are involved.**

OBJECTIVES

The general goal of the Athletic Program is to provide a positive learning experience for all those involved. It is our belief that if the objectives listed below are attained, we will reach this goal.

1. Compete with the expectation and intent to win.
2. Promote sportsmanship.
3. Promote physical fitness.
4. Promote a positive self-concept.
5. Provide an avenue for student involvement.
6. Provide an avenue for community involvement.
7. Provide the leadership necessary to develop a strong, reputable character.
8. Provide an environment where athletes will learn self-discipline.
9. Provide a positive way of influencing peers.
10. Teach the importance of and the procedures of goal setting.

11. Contribute to the total development of the individual: mentally, physically, socially and emotionally.
12. Establish excellence in Wells athletics.
13. Promote education with the goal of graduation and advancing beyond high school.

EXPECTATIONS OF WELLS ATHLETES

We expect you to do something worthwhile in your life. We expect you to have great expectations. We expect the following things from you:

1. To get an education.
2. To give your total effort; to make the most of what your abilities.
3. To show respect to your teammates, opponents, officials, and coaches at all times.
4. To practice and play to the best of your ability.
5. To be honest.
6. To be loyal to your school, administration, teachers, coaches, teammates, families, and friends.
7. To be prompt.
8. To be courteous.
9. To be encouraging.
10. To be enthusiastic and possess a positive attitude.

EXPECTATIONS OF COACHES

1. To be loyal to the athletic program, school, and community.
2. To be honest.
3. To provide the leadership and training necessary to achieve our goals.
4. To work you harder than you have worked before.
5. To assist you in any way possible now and after you graduate.
6. To treat you with respect as an athlete and as a person.
7. To make all decisions predicated on what is best for the team, and then what is best for the individual.
8. To do everything within our power to improve our facilities and make Wells the best place to go to school and participate in athletics.
9. To assist you mature and grow as a person.
10. To assist you in reaching your goals.

SELFISHNESS

The only reason you will be eliminated from the team is due to selfishness. Selfish acts will not be tolerated. We will eliminate a selfish star to keep a team intact. The best players do not always win, but the best team does. Selfishness is the problem, some of its symptoms are:

1. Stealing - violation of another's things or space for selfish gain
2. Tardiness - explained below
3. Absenteeism - missing practice benefits no one
4. Substance abuse - includes tobacco, alcohol or illegal use of drugs
5. Chronic academic problems – continuously ineligible
6. Other forms of lack of discipline as listed in Team Discipline

Attendance and punctuality are mandatory. You are to attend every function and be on time. Failure to attend, or arriving late are very selfish acts. Arrange your schedule to prepare for circumstances that might cause you to be late or absent. **You must call the head coach prior to any organized team activity if you will be unable to attend.**

If a tardy or an absence seems unavoidable, you are expected to call. The only problem we cannot handle is the one of which we are unaware. Only the head coach of your team can excuse you from a workout.

DISCIPLINE

Discipline - doing what is necessary or right in any and all circumstances. Self-discipline is the source of inner power that separates the dynamic achieving person from the unfulfilled underachieving person.

“Discipline yourself, and others won’t need to.” –John Wooden

Your outer appearance and language give the first impression of your degree of discipline. In many cases, you and your team will be judged from this first impression alone. Do not confuse discipline with cosmetology. You cannot win with cosmetics. They will be removed by adversity. You can win with discipline. Over the course of a season your athletic ability will not increase enough to make a significant difference. Disciplined techniques can increase enough to make the difference. Proper technique, no matter the opponent, no matter the score, no matter the officials, is discipline. **Discipline is not an inherited trait; it must be learned, modeled and demanded by your coaches and parents.** We will teach you. You must be willing to learn.

TEAM DISCIPLINE

Coaches will impose team discipline on a case-by-case basis. Each case requiring discipline will be evaluated on its individual merit, but the general rules listed below will be followed:

1. Absenteeism – any time an athlete is going to miss practice for any reason; **the athlete will be required to phone their coach before the practice begins.** If the coach cannot be reached, a message should be left.

Coach's Office – (936)867-4400

Excused: consists of illness, injury, and death of relative or close friend.

Unexcused: other than above at the coach's discretion.

Consequences: Determined by coaching staff.

2. Tardiness - An athlete is considered tardy for workout if he is not completely dressed out and on the floor or field at the scheduled time.

Consequences: Determined by coaching staff.

3. Substance abuse - It is illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to purchase or use alcohol. It is illegal for anyone to be in the possession of or to use illegal drugs. It is, illegal for a minor to buy or use tobacco products. This includes **electronic cigarettes, vapor pens, etc.** Anyone found doing any of these would be dealt with accordingly.

Consequences for drug abuse will fall under the Wells ISD drug testing policy.

Consequences for alcohol and tobacco abuse:

The first offense will result in a one game/event suspension plus conditioning.

The second offense will result in at least a 30 day suspension from contests plus conditioning and a parent/administrator conference.

The third offense will result in at least a 90 day suspension from contests plus conditioning and possible expulsion from the entire athletic program.

To participate in athletics, a student must participate year-round in the WISD Drug Testing and Prevention program.

4. Attitude/Respect - The athletes are expected to show respect to all members of the **faculty** and the athletic staff. Rude gestures or abusive language will not be tolerated toward anyone including teammates.

Consequences:

Player/coach conference, formal apology, possible game suspension, extra physical conditioning.

5. Behaviors in Class - Athletes are expected to follow the classroom rules of all their individual teachers. Misconduct in the classroom could necessitate actions being taken by the coach. The head coach will determine the direction of action. Any after school tutorials/detentions assigned by a teacher, coach, or administrator are considered mandatory.

6. Dress Code - Athletes will be required to be in school dress code at all times. **The athlete is required to be in acceptable workout clothes during practice. No jewelry is to be worn during practice or games.** Athletes could be required to wear particular attire for home and road games. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary measures at the coach's discretion.

8. Dismissed from Practice- a player removed from a practice session based on attitude or poor work habits will be subject to possible suspension and further disciplinary action.

9. Appearance- First impressions are very important. Wrong as it may be, people are often judged solely by their appearance. All athletes will be well groomed. We will follow the Wells Student Handbook dress code. Coaches may require a more stringent dress code for travel.

10. Social Media - Athletes need to be aware of the information that they are putting on social media. People always view you as a Wells athlete, so you must conduct yourself as such, even online. Do not use inappropriate language of any type. This includes retweeting or reposting other's comments. Do not post inappropriate video or pictures. The best rule of thumb to use is if your coach might think it is inappropriate, then don't put it out there. Speak positively about teammates, coaches, your school, and community. If you have an issue, address it directly with that person or group, do not put it on social media. Failure to comply will be handled on an individual basis and could result in dismissal from the team and/or athletics.

PARENT CONFERENCES

All parent conferences should be scheduled with the coach of the appropriate team if any conflict occurs. **Parent conferences will not occur before, during or after a game.** Conferences may be scheduled before school, during the coach's conference period, or after school. **Conferences are to discuss your athlete and your athlete only.**

QUITTING

Once an athlete quits or is released from a team and wishes to return, it will be handled on an individual basis by the head coach. Before an athlete is allowed to quit there must be a meeting with the coach, parents, and an administrator.

Any athlete who quits will not be allowed to participate in athletics for one calendar year from the date the student quits.

EQUIPMENT & UNIFORMS

The school will provide all uniforms and most equipment necessary for the participation in athletics.

1. Check out procedures - Equipment/uniforms will be issued at a date that complies with UIL policy.
2. Equipment & Uniform Maintenance - Each athlete is responsible for his/her own equipment. Lost or ruined equipment must be replaced. If an article is lost, new equipment will be issued after payment is made to replace the lost article(s).
3. Check-in Procedures - Equipment will be checked in on the first available day after the final game of the season, unless otherwise determined by the head coach.

INJURY POLICY

When an athlete is injured and emergency treatment is not required, the athlete will be evaluated by the coach and then to their family physician or to the team physician, if necessary. In the event of an emergency, an ambulance will be called if there is any doubt as to the severity of the injury. The athlete will not be allowed to nor required to participate until the physician releases him/her in writing.

PAPERWORK

The Athletic Handbook Acceptance, Insurance waiver, Acknowledgement of Rules, Steroid Agreement, and a Physical must be completed and **on file within the first two weeks of school.**

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

For activities, including practices, which require student travel, students must ride on district transportation. When the practice will end after school hours, a student who drives to school may drive his/her own vehicle to the field and leave following practice. It is expected that athletes travel to and from activities with the team. However, there are times when exceptions can be made. For acceptable reasons, parents may take their child from an out-of-town activity by signing the student out with the coach following the activity. For another family member to take a child following an activity, prior arrangements must have been made with the coach by the parent. Acceptable reasons for not traveling with the team will be determined by the head coach of each sport.

Special COVID-19 information

- Students who wish to participate in athletics must attend their athletic period and practices in person.
- Athletics will not be offered remotely once in person learning is offered.
- A student can be a remote learner and still attend athletics
- Students must continue to meet all UIL eligibility requirements to participate in athletics
- If a remote learner becomes an in person learner anytime during the school year, he/she will be allowed to join athletics at that time. However, a remote learner, cannot join athletics during the middle of the school year, unless he/she becomes an in person learner.
- If an in person learner becomes a remote learner during the school year, he/she can remain in athletics.
- If a student quits a sport over COVID-19 concerns, consequences for quitting may be waived by the head coach and athletic director.

CLOSING

Other issues may arise which are not covered in this handbook. The coaches using their discretion as to the incident will handle those issues. All decisions made by the coaching staff are made with the program's best interest in mind.

Success is a choice. The coaches, players, parents, teachers and community all contribute to the success of the Wells I. S. D. Athletic Program. Together, we can accomplish anything that we set our minds to through diligence, persistence and hard work.

PRINT ATHLETES NAME: _____

WELLS ATHLETIC HANDBOOK ACCEPTANCE FORM

I have read and understand the rules in the Wells Athletic Handbook and I agree to abide by the terms.

_____/_____/_____
Athletes' Signature Date

_____/_____/_____
Parents' Signature Date