

## FORT BEND ISD ATHLETIC POLICIES FOR THE STUDENT ATHLETE

Participation in athletics and/or UIL contests is not a right but a **PRIVILEGE**. All participants in the athletic program must understand the rules and policies in the FBISD extracurricular handbook and the athletic code. The coaches of the sport or activities and the Athletic Director shall have the right to remove this privilege.

### ATHLETIC GROOMING CODE

Participation in competitive athletics is completely voluntary. To participate in athletics in Fort Bend ISD, there are certain grooming standards which must be maintained. Specific grooming standards are necessary for the following reasons: **SAFETY** - It is almost impossible to get a safe fit in football helmets if the hair is exceptionally long. Wearing jewelry is not allowed, as it may be dangerous to the participants, their teammate and opponents. In many sports this is a violation punishable by disqualification. **HEALTH and HYGIENE** - Facial cuts are more susceptible to infection, and first-aid is more difficult to administer when facial hair is present. **UNIFORMITY** - Athletes will travel to other communities and schools as representatives of Fort Bend ISD. Therefore, they will be expected to be neatly groomed. Equipment worn by the athlete should be uniform and identical to his team members. Shoes must be the same color if different. **SELF-DISCIPLINE** - Learning self-discipline is one of the rewards of being an athlete. Acquiring self-discipline often requires making sacrifices with regards to fads. Visible piercings are prohibited anytime an athlete is in a FBISD facility or representing their school and team. This applies at all times during the school year. **NOTE:** Violations of the above standards of grooming may result in suspension and possible expulsion from the team.

### CONDUCT

**DURING CONTESTS** - Athletes will learn to win and lose with grace. They will not display any act or behavior which is not conducive to good sportsmanship. They will respect the officials and refrain from the use of profanity and illegal tactics. Infractions may result in the possible removal from the contest or team.

**SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL** - If an athlete is suspended from school for any reason, they will be ineligible during the period of suspension. Future suspensions in the same school year may result in the total expulsion from athletics for the remainder of the school year. This also includes on campus suspensions. **DISRESPECT TO TEACHER OR COACH** - Disrespect by an athlete directed to his teacher, coach, or school administration will be handled on an individual basis. Punishment may call for expulsion from all athletic activities for a calendar year from the date of the incident. His/her return would be determined by their conduct during the period of expulsion. **CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR** - Athletes who receive poor conduct reports and are habitual problems in the classroom may be suspended from a team.

### ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS OF IMPORTANCE

**SCHOOL EQUIPMENT** - All equipment checked out to athletes becomes the financial responsibility of the athlete. Equipment must not be abused, used or worn for personal use, and must be returned clean and in good condition. **QUITTING/REMOVAL FROM TEAM** - Athletes quitting or removed from a team will forfeit any awards or recognition for the sport. They will not be allowed to participate in another sport until the season of the sport quit or removed from is completed. Athletes quitting off-season program of one sport may not enter same type of program for another sport. **PRACTICE REGULATION** - A coach must be consulted ahead of time if any athlete must miss a practice or game. Missing a game or practice without permission may result in suspension from the team. Athletes must obey all rules set up by the coach.

### TRAVEL

All athletes represent the community, school, and coaches. Therefore, it is expected that all will dress in an acceptable manner on trips and conduct themselves in a manner in keeping with the athletic codes. Violations may result in suspension and possible expulsion from the team or program.

Athletes must be on time for all trips or be left at school. All athletes making the trip on the bus will return on the bus unless in an emergency situation or when parents are present and there is good reason for returning with parents. The proper form must be filled out by the student and signed by his or her parents prior to the trip if they are to return with their parents. Athletes are never to return with anyone other than on the bus or their own parents.

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your child has indicated an interest in the Fort Bend ISD athletic program. We feel that participation in sports is important to the growth of our students. Such participation develops physical fitness, team cooperation, mental concentration, competitive spirit, sportsmanship and leadership. These qualities will serve your child throughout his/her life.

Our coaching staff is looking forward to working with your child this school year. All athletes will be trained to compete to the best of their abilities and to have a positive team experience. As with any competition, there is the reality of possible injury. Each coach is aware of the dangers and will make every effort to prevent injuries. With proper safety practices, injuries can be kept to a minimum, and most will be minor. However, major injuries can occur. We demand nothing but the best in instruction and care for our athletes. When the sport dictates it, we are striving to see that each participant is protectively equipped. The coaching staff will actively teach safety as well as impart the value of physical fitness as a means of safety protection. If there is information about your child's health and well being their coach should be aware of, please contact the coach prior to participation. Please indicate with your signatures below that you and your child understand the possible risk of injury (minor or major) present in athletic participation, and return to your child's coach. We are looking forward to an enjoyable and safe year for all our students in all programs. I take this opportunity to wish your athlete success.

Sincerely,

*Philip O'Neal*

Philip O'Neal

FBISD - Director of Athletics

I have read and understand the FBISD student athlete policies, rules and letter from the Athletic Director and agree that my son/daughter and I will abide by all the Fort Bend ISD policies.

Athlete's Name (PLEASE PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

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