

OLTON ISD ATHLETIC POLICY

I. PREAMBLE

Student participation in athletics is encouraged. Olton ISD makes athletics available as an extension of the regular school program, with this important difference: **participation in the regular curriculum is a right afforded to each student, while participation in athletics is a privilege that carries additional expectations for acceptable conduct.** Students participating in athletics represent not only themselves, but also other students and the school district when competing and while wearing uniforms or other clothing that identifies the student to the community or public in any setting as Olton ISD athletes. For this reason, their behavior must be exemplary and reflect the finest attributes of the total Olton ISD student body **at all times and places.** The general philosophy of the Olton ISD athletics department is that we will attempt to help an individual who has made a mistake; however, if a mistake is repeated, **the welfare of the team must take priority over the individual.**

The primary purposes of the athletic program are educational in nature. They include giving students direction in developing self-discipline, responsibility, pride, loyalty, leadership, teamwork, respect for authority, honor, and accountability.

II. JURISDICTION

Because participation in athletics is a privilege and not a right, Olton ISD is authorized to set higher standards for participants of athletics than it would for those students who choose not to represent the school in this program. Therefore, this *Athletic Code of Conduct* extends beyond the *Olton ISD Student Code of Conduct* not only in types of behaviors prohibited, but also in corresponding consequences and jurisdiction for imposing discipline. *This Athletic Code of Conduct* will be enforced with all students participating in athletics:

- Regardless of whether school is in session;
- Regardless of whether the offense occurs on or off school property or at a school-related event;
- Regardless of whether the student is directly involved in a sport at the time the prohibited conduct occurs;
- Regardless of whether the sport is in-season; and
- Regardless of where or when the conduct occurs.

It is possible that a student who violates the *Olton ISD Student Code of Conduct* will

incur consequences from both the appropriate school administrator and from his or her coach for the same particular violation. It is also possible that a student participating in athletics could violate the *Athletic Code of Conduct* and be subject to discipline by a coach without having violated the *Olton ISD Student Code of Conduct* or the *Olton ISD Drug-Testing Policy*.

ATHLETIC EXPECTATIONS AT OLTON HIGH SCHOOL

CONDUCT STATEMENT

Athletes may face disciplinary action, including possible suspension or expulsion, for demonstrating behavior that is determined to be detrimental to the team, school, or community. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to:

1. Inappropriate language.
2. Unwilling or lazy attitude, poor work ethic.
3. Disrespectful to any member of the coaching, teaching, or school staff member.
4. Disrespectful to a game official.
5. Display of temper.
6. Not responsive to a coach, teacher, or school staff member request.
7. Argumentative attitude
8. Habitual disregard for rules
9. Negative effect on team morale
10. Unsportsmanlike behavior

III. GENERAL CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

The following conduct is expected of all participants. Failure to meet these expectations can result in disciplinary action by the coach:

- Students who participate in athletics will conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times. This includes behavior toward visiting teams or hosting teams as well as the opponent's fans. Olton ISD athletes will be noted for clean, tough, competitive play.
- Students who participate in athletics will be held to a higher standard regarding grooming and game day attire.
- Students should arrive at practices, meetings, and events on time and prepared.
- Students who cannot be present for a practice, meeting, or event should call the coach as soon as they are aware that they will be absent. Missed practices, meetings, or workouts will be made up and disciplinary actions

- will be given for unexcused absences.
- Injured or ill students 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 group.
- Students are required to show respect at all times to coaches.

IV. CLASSROOM CONDUCT

A **good athlete** is a **good student**. The primary purpose for being in school is to receive a quality education. Appropriating proper time and energy to studies is necessary to ensure top performance. An athlete should give respectful attention to classroom activities and show respect for students and faculty members at all times. Horseplay and unnecessary talking are not approved habits of behavior in the classroom. If these standards present a problem that the athlete is unable to correct, suspension from the team may result. A healthy athlete should have a good attendance record. Truancy is never acceptable.

V. APPEARANCE AND GROOMING STANDARDS

All dress, grooming, and hair codes will follow the Olton ISD Student Code of Conduct requirements. Coaches may establish additional rules of dress for travel in their respective sports. Caps may be allowed to be worn during travel. The caps must be worn with the bill facing forward.

All coaches will be expected to administer these policies with the same degree of discretion. Each coach, with the assistance of the athletic director, will administer these policies to the group of athletes or teams for which he or she is responsible during a particular season. When the athlete changes from a fall or winter sport to a spring sport, the new coach will take over policy enforcement.

Once an athlete has been instructed to conform to the standards, no other action should be necessary. Athletes not wishing to comply with these guidelines will not be allowed to participate in games until they comply.

VI. TEAM TRAVEL

On trips out of town, athletes directly represent their community, their school, their coaches, and their families. Therefore, all participants will dress in an acceptable manner when traveling, and conduct themselves at all times in a manner keeping with this code.

- All athletes must travel to and from out-of-town athletic contests in transportation provided by the school.*

- Athletes will remain with their squad and under supervision of a coach at all times when attending away contests.

**Students who participate in school-sponsored trips shall be required to use transportation provided by the school to and from the event. An exception may be made only if the student's parent/guardian makes a written request that the student be released to the parent/guardian or to another adult designated by the parent/guardian. The District shall not be liable for any injuries that occur to students using transportation that is not provided by the school.*

VII. PROHIBITED CONDUCT

Conviction of a felony or adjudication of a felony degree offense will result in an immediate removal from athletics. The student **may** be reinstated to the program upon a review of behavior by the athletic director, and the coach of his/her sport at the end of one calendar year.

Inappropriate behaviors will be classified as SEVERE, MAJOR, and MINOR. The behaviors listed herein are not all-inclusive; rather they serve as a framework for student-athletes, parents, and school officials.

Severe Offenses

- Use or possession of illegal drugs (including steroids).
- Use or possession of alcohol.
- Theft.
- **Third and subsequent "major" violations.**

Major Offenses

- Hazing.
- Use or possession of Tobacco.
- Multiple "minor" violations.
- Repeated classroom discipline problems.
- Repeated truancy from school or practice.
- Repeated insubordination.
- Fighting

Minor Offenses

- Violation of dressing room policies.

- Technical or Unsportsmanlike conduct fouls during a contest.*
- Violation of training room policies.
- Excessive horseplay.
- Repeated scheduling of appointments during practice or the athletic period.
- Mistreatment of school equipment.
- Appearance and grooming violations.
- Use of profanity.

*Any athlete who receives two unsportsmanlike conduct or technical fouls for behavior related reasons will be removed for the remainder of that contest **and** will be suspended from playing in the next contest. The same consequence will apply to any athlete that is ejected from a contest. The athletic director and head coach of the sport will review each case individually to ensure fairness to the athlete. Any adjustments made to the consequences will be joint decision made by the athletic director and head coach. A second offense of this nature will be considered a “major” offense. No list is all-inclusive. Classification of offenses not listed that may occur will be left to the discretion of the coach and/or the athletic director.

VIII. PROCEDURES

Determination of violations of the *Athletic Code of Conduct* will be made by the coach and/or the athletic director. Upon the determination that a severe or major violation has occurred, the following individuals will be contacted:

- The student and his/her parents or legal guardian.
- The appropriate school administrator.

All severe and major violations and disciplinary actions taken will be documented and kept on file while the student remains in high school.

All minor violations should be dealt with by the coach of the sport that the athlete is in when the violation occurs.

IX. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

ISS/DAEP Assignments

These violations will be cumulative in a school year.

ISS – Students assigned ISS will be suspended from participation in all games or practices until the ISS is completed.

*On the second ISS assignment of the school year, the student will be suspended from the next contest.

*On the third ISS assignment of the school year, the student will be suspended from the next two contests.

*On the fourth ISS assignment of the school year, the student will be removed from all athletic teams for the remainder of that school year.

DAEP – A student’s assignment to DAEP for violations of the student code of conduct will be treated as a **major** offense and dealt with accordingly. Any further offenses will be considered **severe** offenses and will be handled accordingly.

In all cases where an athlete is placed in DAEP, all athletic disciplinary actions will begin upon the completion of that DAEP school suspension. However, if a student’s DAEP assignment has a holiday or weekend within the suspension period, all days that the team practices and/or plays within that holiday *will count* towards the athletic suspension to be completed at the end of the AEP assignment.

It should be noted that any discrepancies with the *OISD Drug-Testing Policy* will defer to the consequences listed in the drug-testing policy.

For any of the following disciplinary actions, failure to comply with the requirements will result in removal from the athletic program for the remainder of the school year, or until requirements are met, and will call for the student to meet the requirements before being allowed back into the athletic program the following year.

Disciplinary actions to be taken for **severe** offenses will be the following:

First Offense

The student will be suspended from all in season athletic events for 15 consecutive days with scheduled practices and games (days with no practice or games will not count towards the suspension). During the suspension period, attendance at practices will be mandatory. The student and his/her parents will be required to sign an *athletic probationary contract*.

Second Offense

The student will be suspended from all in season athletic events for 25 consecutive days with scheduled practices and games (days with no practice or games will not count towards the suspension). During the

suspension period, attendance at practices will be mandatory. The student and parents will be required to sign an athletic probationary contract.

Third Offense

The student will be permanently removed from athletics.

Disciplinary actions to be taken for **major** offenses will be the following:

First Offense

The student will be suspended from all athletic events for 5 consecutive days with scheduled practices and games (days with no practice or game will not count towards the suspension). During the suspension period, attendance at practices will be mandatory. The student and his/her parents will be required to sign an *athletic probationary contract*.

Second Offense

The student will be suspended from all athletic events for 10 consecutive days with scheduled practices and games (days with no practice or games will not count towards the suspension). During the suspension period, attendance at practices will be mandatory. The student and parents will be required to sign an *athletic probationary contract*.

Further Offenses

Third and subsequent “major” violations will be considered “severe” violations.

All “minor” offenses will be handled by the coach of the sport in which the athlete is currently participating. Disciplinary actions that may be taken by a coach may include, but are not limited to:

- Verbal Reprimand
- Parent Conference
- Apology, private and/or public, written and/or verbal
- Retribution for damages
- Corporal Punishment

Coaches will review all facts and circumstances surrounding a particular violation and impose appropriate disciplinary actions. Coaches will strive for consistency in meting out consequences for all violations and are expected to exercise sound professional

judgment in determining the discipline to be applied in each situation.

X. QUITTING A TEAM

Quitting a team is an intolerable habit to acquire. Athletes that quit are also “giving up” on themselves and those that depend on them. Commitment to being an Olton Mustang/Fillie Team member is one of the most valuable lessons learned in athletics. Concerns and frustrations can often be worked out with proper communication between the athlete and the coach.

- Any athlete wishing to quit a team or sport must notify the head coach. The head coach will contact the parent and schedule a conference, if the parent so desires. The athlete will be required to wait 24 hours before making their decision final. Any practices or games missed will be made up if the athlete chooses to remain on the team or in the sport.
- The following consequences will be in effect for any athlete that quits any team or sport the 1st time:
 - a. The athlete will not be allowed to participate in any sport for one full calendar year. or
 - b. If the athlete chooses, he or she may be reinstated by completing a total of 25 miles in 5 days. A coach or school personnel must witness the miles run. An exception to the time frame can be made due to extenuating circumstances. That determination will be made by the athletic director and any coaches involved.

An athlete will have a two week grace period at the beginning of each sport season to determine if he/she wants to compete in that particular sport. After 2 weeks, the consequences stated above will be in effect.

- If an athlete begins participation on two or more concurrent teams, he/she will have two weeks (10 school days) to determine if it is in their best interest to drop one sport and concentrate on the other sport(s). After two weeks, if the athlete decides to quit one of the teams, he/she will not be allowed to compete in any other sport until one of the above consequences is fulfilled.
- If the athlete chooses to wait 365 days, he/she will be removed from the athletic period as soon as reasonably possible, most likely at a semester end.
- A second time of quitting a team or sport will be a mandatory elimination from athletics for one calendar year. A third time will result in permanent removal from athletics.

XI. ENROLLMENT IN THE ATHLETIC PERIOD

Students participating in team sports (volleyball, football, basketball, baseball) must be enrolled in the athletic period, unless doing so would prevent meeting academic requirements for graduation. Students participating only in individual sports (cross country, powerlifting, golf, tennis, track and field) are not required to be enrolled in the athletic period in order to participate since these sports are all practiced after regular school hours.

The athletic period is a class. It is a part of the school day and will be treated as such. It will not be a “free” period and students are expected to make every possible attempt to attend each day. Do not make a habit of scheduling appointments during the period. Excessive absence problems, excused or unexcused, will be dealt with as **major** offenses.

XII. MULTIPLE SPORT CONFLICTS

Participating in multiple sports is encouraged and necessary for the athletic program to be successful. However, there will be times when those sports conflict. The following guidelines will be used in determining which sport the student will attend when a conflict exists:

- District competition will take precedence over non-district competition.
- Playoff level competition will take precedence over district competition.
- When two or more sports conflict and there is no higher level of competition involved, the student will be allowed to choose which sport he/she will participate in on that date.

****We ask much of our student-athletes. Coaches must take every possible precaution to be certain that no actual or perceived pressure is placed upon our multiple sport athletes to attend one sport over another.**

XIII. SCHOOL SPIRIT AND SPORTS PARTICIPATION

- Narrow, personal interests should yield to the larger, more important interests of the team and the school.
- Participation in any sport where a positive contribution can be made should be a priority.
- Every athlete should furnish support for all sports whether a participant or a spectator.

XIV. UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE RULES

- A. No one shall take part in any contest in UIL competition in violation of these rules.
- B. It shall be the duty of all persons concerned with the athletic program to inform student athletes of these rules and to comply completely with them.
- C. The general areas of concern are commonly known as:
 - 1. Age rule
 - 2. Credits rule
 - 3. Scholarship rule
 - 4. Amateur rule (see Valuable Consideration)
 - 5. Attendance
 - 6. Changing schools
 - 7. One year rule
 - 8. Pre-participation Physical Evaluation, Acknowledgement of Rules Form, Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form, Concussion Acknowledgement Form, and Parent/Student Steroid Agreement Form (Must be on file)
 - 9. Awards rule
- D. Valuable Consideration.
 - 1. Pre-season: School athletic teams may be given pre-season meals, if approved by the school.
 - 2. Post-Season: School athletic teams may be given post-season meals if approved by the school. Banquet favors or gifts are considered are considered valuable consideration and are subject to the Awards and Amateur Rules if they are given to a student athlete at any time.
 - 3. Other. If approved by the school, school athletic teams and athletes may be invited to and may attend functions where free admission is offered, or where refreshments and/or meals are served. Athletes or athletic teams may be recognized at these functions, but may not accept anything, other than food items, that is not given to all other students.
 - 4. Meals, snacks or snack foods during or after practices are allowable.
 - 5. Parties provided by parents or other students strictly for an athletic team are allowable.
 - 6. Per district discretion, small “goodie bags” that contain candy, cookies, and other items are allowable as long as the items have no intrinsic value and are not considered valuable consideration.

WHERE CAN I GET QUESTIONS ANSWERED?

You may call **Kenny Eudy, High School Principal/Athletic Director @ Olton High School (285-2691)** regarding any questions concerning the Olton ISD Athletic Policy.

OLTON ATHLETIC POLICY

We (Athlete and Parent/Guardian) have read the Athletic Policy Handbook and understand the responsibilities, obligations, and consequences that are to be enforced while participating in the Olton Independent School District Athletic Program.

We have also read and agree with the Athletic and UIL Policy.

Your signature below gives authorization that is necessary for the school district, its athletic trainer, coaches, associated physicians and student insurance personnel to share information concerning medical diagnosis and treatment for your student.

(Student Signature)

Date

(Parent/Legal Guardian Signature)

Date

Sample Document

Olton Athletic Discipline Contract

Date _____

Olton Mustang Athletics wants our athletes to succeed both as individuals and as a team in athletic competition. More importantly we want our athletes to succeed as people and be accountable for their actions as well as behavior both on and off the field or court. We expect our athletes to be accountable for their behavior in the classroom, in the halls, on the field or court and wherever they might find themselves at school events. We expect our athletes to take responsibility for their decisions and actions. We also want them to exhibit honorable character traits in every area of their lives. We believe that teaching athletes to be accountable for themselves is far more important than teaching them to compete as athletes. We hold our athletes to a higher standard because they represent our school. We must be able to trust them to do the right thing at both in town and out of town games. We also hold them to a higher standard because we want them to be successful in life. We care about our athletes and all students.

We have had a problem with (Athletes Name) being accountable for his/her behavior. (Athlete's Name) will be given a chance to remain in athletics. Being a part of the athletic program is a privilege not a right. If (Athletes Name) has another office referral for a major offense such as, but not limited to, fighting, insubordination or inappropriate language, it will be considered a second offense.

Kenny Eudy
HS Principal/Athletic Director
Olton ISD

Student Signature

Parent Signature

