

OLTON ISD ATHLETIC POLICY

(July 10, 2013)

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

I. 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.

II. 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.

III. APPEARANCE AND GROOMING STANDARDS

Grooming and Hair will follow the Olton ISD Student Code of Conduct requirements.

All athletes will have a prescribed dress for game day:

No Caps (Boys & Girls) - unless sport specific and then caps are to be worn with the bill forward.

Male Athletes – will be required to wear either a collared team travel shirt, or jersey. Pants with no holes in them, either khaki or nice jeans, belt, and the shirt must be tucked in at all times. When appropriate, travel shirts and wind suits or sweats may be worn.

Female Athletes – will be required to wear a Team Shirt selected by sport and Pants with no holes in them, either khaki or nice jeans. When appropriate, travel shirts and wind suits or sweats may be worn.

Olton Junior High School Standards

Grooming and Hair will follow the Olton ISD Student Code of Conduct requirements. Both boys and girls will be required to wear a clean nice Shirt, Khaki Pants, or Jeans with no holes in them.

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.

IV. 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 may travel with parents, legal guardians, or designated adult to an athletic contest with **prior approval (form on OISD Website), must be signed by the Athletic Director or HS Principal. At no time will an athlete travel to a contest by himself/herself or with another student. If a student rides to the game with a parent or legal guardian, the return trip should be made with the team, unless there is a special situation.*

Students may travel home with parents, legal guardians, or designated adult with **prior approval (form on OISD Website), must be signed by the Athletic Director or HS Principal.*

V. 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.
- Third and subsequent “major” violations.

Major Offenses

- Hazing.
- Use or possession of Tobacco.
- Theft.
- 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 that teams next contest. 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

DAEP/ISS Assignments

**These violations will be cumulative in a school year.
Will restart with the next sport season.**

ISS – Students assigned ISS will be suspended from participation in all games or practices until their return to athletics.

*On the second ISS assignment of each season, the student will be suspended from that team’s next contest.

*On the third ISS assignment of each season, the student will be suspended from that team’s next

two contests.

*On the fourth ISS assignment of each season, the student will be removed from that team for the remainder of that season.

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). Or the student will be required to complete 15 hours of Community Service within 20 calendar days. If Community Service hours are not completed in 20 calendar days, the student will be suspended until hours are complete. 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). Or the student will be required to complete 45 hours of Community Service within 60 calendar days. If Community Service hours are not completed in 60 calendar days, the student will be suspended until hours are complete. The student and his/her 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). Or the student will be required do 5 hours of Community Service to be done in 10 calendar days. 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). Or the student will be required do 10 hours of Community Service to be done in 20 calendar days. 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*.

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 punishment for all violations and are expected to exercise sound professional judgment in determining the discipline to be applied in each situation.

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 or Fillie Team member is one of the most valuable lessons earned in athletics. Concerns and frustrations can often be worked out with proper communication between the athlete and the coach.

1. Any athlete wishing to quit a team should notify the head coach and complete the Request to Quit form. This Request to Quit form must be signed by the athlete and their parents before the athlete is allowed to quit a team. The athlete will be required to wait 24 hours before making their decision final.

2. If an athlete begins participating in a sport and then quits after two weeks he will not be allowed to start a second sport until the first sport is completed and will enter our Off-Season Program.
3. If an athlete begins participation on two concurrent teams, they 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. After two weeks, if the athlete decides to quit one of the teams. This will be considered as one quitting infraction.
4. If an athlete quits a team, they may regain participation privileges with that team the following season by requesting to complete the Athletic Re-Entry Program.
5. An athlete quitting a team and not wishing to participate in another sport will be removed from the athletic program and athletic period. The schedule change will be made as soon as possible. In some cases this change may not be possible until the end of the semester, in this case the student's grade will reflect their lack of participation in the athletic period. This is a period during the school day, and as with any other class, if the student has chosen not to participate in the period's activities, the grade they receive will reflect that choice.
6. An athlete that quits a second time (same team) will not be allowed to use the Re-Entry Program to regain participation privileges with that team.

Quitting violations for High School athletes will be cumulative for their High School career.

OLTON ATHLETIC RE-ENTRY PROGRAM

The purpose of the Athletic Re-Entry Program is to allow athletes an opportunity to show his commitment to return to the Athletic Program or Team. Any athlete who quits a team will be required to complete the Re-Entry Program before they are allowed to participate with that particular team. If an athlete removes himself from the Athletic Program or if the athlete is suspended from the Athletic Program for a period of a semester or longer, he will have to complete the Re-Entry Program before they can return to participate in any sport. At the discretion of the Athletic Director and the Head Coach of that sport, an athlete may be denied the privilege of using the Re-Entry Program.

Requirements of the Re-Entry Program:

1. Complete the request form to re-join a team or athletics.
2. Must find a teammate as a SPONSOR, the Sponsor must be a member of the team he is attempting to re-enter. The Sponsor will act as the re-entry player's advocate and model

the work ethic, respectfulness, and desire to excel that is expected of a Mustang and Fillie.

3. If the re-entry player gets in trouble (ie; late, unclean locker, disrespect) the Sponsor must be present to provide encouragement for the re-entry player during his Character Building assignment. If the Sponsor cannot be present, the Character assignment will double for the next day. If the re-entry athlete wants to quit again, the Sponsor must make a good faith attempt to encourage him to stay.
4. Successfully complete a Character Building assignment over a five day period. The re-entry player's Sponsor must be present for this Character assignment. The running will be in addition to the regular daily work out. A Character Coach will supervise the running and the coach will determine the pace.
5. Write a two page essay on "Why they previously quit a Team and why they want to return to a Team".
6. Must have passed all classes at least two of the three six weeks the previous semester.
7. Must have demonstrated good citizenship and good behavior in school and in the community the previous semester. Detentions, ISS assignments, AEP placements, and criminal activities will be considered detrimental to a student requesting to complete the Re-Entry Program.
8. Requests to re-enter must be made prior to the beginning of workouts for that particular sport. Exceptions to this rule are at the discretion of the Head Coach of that sport and the Athletic Director.

Athletes will only be allowed to use the Re-Entry Program one time during their High School career.

XI. ENROLLMENT IN THE ATHLETIC PERIOD

ALL students who wish to participate in a Olton ISD athletic program **MUST** be enrolled in an athletic period, unless doing so would prevent meeting academic graduation requirements. You must be diligent in working your schedule to receive the proper amount of credits to graduate while including athletics in your schedule through your senior year. If necessary, you may need to enroll in summer school to receive credits that will allow you to be enrolled in the athletic period the following year.

The athletic period is a class. It is a part of your school day and will be treated as such. It will not be a "free" period and you 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 our 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. Semester rule
 3. Scholarship rule
 4. Amateur rule (see Valuable Consideration)
 5. Attendance
 6. Changing schools
 7. One year rule
 8. Medical examination and parent consent form (Must be on file)
 9. Awards rule

D. Valuable Consideration.

1. Banquets/Meals. Athletic teams may be given **one** pre-season meal, such as a fish fry, ice cream supper, etc. provided it is given by a non-profit organization (usually the booster club) before the first contest. Teams or individual athletes may not be given anything during the season or during the calendar year which could be deemed as valuable consideration, defined as items which are wearable, useable or salable. (Meals may be provided on out-of-town trips provided they are purchased on school funds.
2. One additional activity, given by a non-profit organization (with prior approval by the school), may be given following the season (usually the athletic banquet). Banquet favors considered valuable consideration would be a violation of the Amateur Rule if they are given at any time by anyone. The penalty for violation of this **forfeiture of eligibility in all varsity UIL sports for one year.**
3. Other. At any time 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, provided **all** students from the high school are invited to attend for the same fee. The teams may be recognized at these functions, but may not accept anything that is not given to **all** other students.

Listed below are valuable consideration school teams and athletes **shall not** accept:

Examples of items deemed to be valuable consideration, and a violation of this rule include, but are not limited to:

1. Cookies, candy, and other gifts from other students, often referred to as goodie bags;
2. Meals, snacks, or snack foods during or after practices;
3. Parties given by parents or other students that are strictly for an athletic team;
4. Anything not given, or offered, to the entire student body on the same basis that it is given to or offered.

WHERE CAN I GET QUESTIONS ANSWERED?

Kent Torbert, Athletic Director Olton High School Field House (285-2641 ext 230) 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

Olton Athletic
Discipline Contract
EXAMPLE

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 they will be immediately removed from the school athletic program.

Kent Torbert
Athletic Director
Olton ISD

Student Signature

Parent Signature