

Olton ISD Athletic Handbook

2026-2027

PURPOSE OF THE ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

The purpose of this document is to provide rules and regulations for Olton athletes/ parents to follow and be aware of. We understand that certain rules and regulations must be put in place for Olton ISD Athletics to be successful. When dealing with violations and discipline measures, the Athletic Director's discretion shall oversee all decisions. Olton ISD Head Coaches/Athletic Director shall always put their student athletes best interests ahead of all measures.

VALUE OF ATHLETICS

Olton ISD and our student athletes shall understand the value of athletics and the many rewards and values that are created while being part of a team and a winning culture. These values acquired in athletics shall help our young men and women become better adults in their future. These values such as teamwork, sportsmanship, work ethic, and discipline shall always be respected and never taken for granted.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Extracurricular activities also include, but are not limited to, public performances, contests, and club events. All athletic activity participants are subject to the provisions of this Athletic Policy. Student athletes and parents/guardians assume an understanding and responsibility that participation in athletics is a privilege and not a right. Therefore, rules and expectations for athletes of Olton ISD are more stringent than those of non-extracurricular school programs. In particular, infractions of the Olton Athletic Policy apply whether the infraction occurs during school hours or not. This includes weekends, holidays, and/or the summer months. The standards of the Olton Athletic Policy are independent of the Olton Student Code of Conduct. Violations of these standards of behavior that are also violations of the Student Code of Conduct may result in a student being disciplined under both standards.

GOALS OF THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM

- Create and maintain expectations of academic excellence.
- Develop a commitment to the growth and maturation of character and integrity.
- Create an environment where students correct inappropriate behaviors in a timely and respectful manner.
- Help develop individuals that are positive role models for our younger students.
- Help lay the foundation that hard work, disciplined behavior, and high standards lead to success in all areas of life.
- Demonstrate loyalty to family, country, school, and team.

BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

- Abide by all provisions of the Olton ISD Student Code of Conduct, as well as, the Olton Athletic Policy.
- Be on time to all practices, contests, or other scheduled events.
- Demonstrate courtesy and respect toward teachers and other students.
- Be responsible for all athletic equipment entrusted to his/her use and return it to the school in the best possible condition given reasonable wear and tear.

ATHLETIC EXPECTATIONS AT OLTON HIGH SCHOOL

CONDUCT STATEMENT

Athletes may face disciplinary action, including possible suspension or expulsion from the program, for demonstrating behavior that is determined to be detrimental to the team, school, or community.

GENERAL CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

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

- Athletes 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.
- Athletes will be held to a higher standard regarding grooming and dress code.
- Athletes should arrive at practices, meetings, and events on time and prepared.
- Athletes 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.
- Athletes are required to show respect at all times to coaches.
- Athletes are expected to travel to and from events with their teammates.
- Once a student has committed to a sport, they are expected to remain "all in" throughout the duration of the season.
- Athletes who violate any of the policies in place will be subject to disciplinary action.

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.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

All Olton athletes must maintain a good attendance record. Truancy is never acceptable.

- Students must be present for half of the school day in order to compete in an athletic event. Athletes who miss more than half of the school day may be excused with a doctor's note.
- Any student who falls out of the state compliance for school attendance will not be permitted to compete until the student regains compliance through Saturday school.

RESPECT FOR COACHES

Coaches should be addressed respectfully. Athletes shall address adults with the correct honorific followed by their last name. At no point should players address a teacher or coach by their first name. Players in return will be treated with respect by their coaches. Whenever a coach is speaking with a player, either individually or as a group, the player will give them their undivided attention.

APPEARANCE AND GROOMING STANDARDS

All members of Olton ISD Athletics are expected to maintain a manner of appearance that reflects a positive image upon Olton ISD and the community of Olton. All athletes will be required to follow the Olton ISD dress code published in the Olton ISD Code of Conduct. Coaches may establish additional rules of dress for travel in their respective sports.

SCHOOL ISSUED EQUIPMENT

All athletes will be issued school equipment for all practices and games. They are required to wear this equipment during the course of their season. The athlete is responsible for any equipment that is issued to them. The athlete will be required to reimburse the Olton ISD athletic department for any equipment that is lost, stolen or damaged. The cost for each item will be based on the amount that will be required to replace it.

PRACTICE / GAME DRESS CODE

Every member of the Olton ISD Athletic Program will wear their uniform in the same manner. Athletes will not be allowed to dress in a manner that would cause them to stand out from the rest of their team. Coaches may implement additional dress codes within their sport.

- Each practice, every athlete will dress out in their practice gear whether they are able to participate or not.
- Athletes will wear school colors at all times. No socks, undershirts, or any clothing should be worn that is not blue, white, grey, or black.
- Athletes must cover all tattoos during practices and competitions.
- No facial hair.
- Females must have their hair pulled back before the start of practices and competitions.
- No jewelry is allowed during practices or competitions.
- Male athletes are not permitted to wear earrings at any school-related/ school-sponsored event. This includes travel, practice, games, or any time they enter an athletic facility.

CELL PHONES / SOCIAL MEDIA

To ensure privacy in the dressing areas/locker rooms, there will be no cell phone usage in those areas unless permission was given by a coach at that particular time.

Due to the accessibility and use of social media in today's society, the Olton ISD Athletic Department is implementing guidelines to help our athletes understand how social media can affect their opportunities in future endeavors.

- Social Media use should not violate the Olton ISD Student Code of Conduct
- Posts should not contain language or remarks that may harm teammates or coaches, other students or representatives of other schools, including comments that may be disrespectful to opposing teams.
- Posts should not contain profane, vulgar, obscene, racial/ethnic, or offensive language.
- Photos should not contain nudity, be vulgar, obscene or offensive in nature.
- Posts should not cast a negative image or negative perception of the athlete, team, or school.

Consequences: Ultimately, the consequences for Social Media violations will be determined by the coaches, athletic director, and school officials on a case-by-case basis.

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 team 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 or typed 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.

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. The behaviors listed below are not all-inclusive; rather they serve as a framework for student-athletes, parents, and school officials.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

CATEGORY 1

FELONY CHARGES / CRIMINAL OFFENSES

• THSCA (Texas High School Coach's Association): Code of Ethics, Article IX, Management of a Felony Crime considered a breach of the code of ethics to willingly allow a student/athlete who is charged with and under indictment for a felony crime to participate in an athletic contest. This action should not be considered a presumption of guilt, but rather it affords the accused athlete the time and opportunity to clear his/her name. The student/athlete may be allowed to remain on his/her athletic team as a suspended member, but should not be allowed to represent his/her school or community in an athletic contest while under this suspension.

USE / POSSESSION OF DRUG / ALCOHOL / ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES — Use will not be tolerated. Breaking these rules involves the following: admission or self-report, receiving a ticket (DWI, DUI, MIP, MIC, etc.), visibly seen by a school employee or social media.

- **1st Offense** —
 - 15 consecutive school day suspension from competition
 - Probation for the remainder of the year
 - Complete 15 miles before returning to competition.
- **2nd Offense** —
 - 30 consecutive school day suspension from competition
 - Probation for the remainder of the year
 - Complete 30 miles before returning to competition.
- **3rd Offense** —
 - The student will be suspended for 1 calendar year from competition.

CATEGORY 2

USE / POSSESSION OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS / VAPES — Use will not be tolerated. Breaking these rules involves the following: admission or self-report, visibly seen by a school employee or social media.

MAJOR OFFENSES — Any offense deemed a MAJOR offense by the Athletic Director and/or head coach will be subject to the following:

- **1st Offense** —
 - 5 consecutive calendar day suspension from competition
 - Probation for the remainder of the year
 - Complete 5 miles before returning to competition.
- **2nd Offense** —
 - 10 consecutive calendar day suspension from competition
 - Probation for the remainder of the year
 - Complete 10 miles before returning to competition.
- **3rd Offense** —
 - Results in a Category 1 consequence

CATEGORY 3

MINOR OFFENSES — Any offense deemed a MINOR offense by the Athletic Director and/or head coach will be subject to the following:

- **1st/2nd Offenses** —
 - Athletes will follow the consequences as seen in the sport specific handbook.
- **Further Offenses** — Third and subsequent minor violations will be upgraded to a major violation.

ISS — Students assigned ISS may not participate in athletic competitions before/during/after school until the ISS placement is completed. However, the athlete is required to attend athletic practices, either before or after the conclusion of the regular school day.

DAEP — Students assigned to Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) may not participate in any competitions or practices on the day(s) assigned to DAEP.

****During the suspension periods, attendance at practices will be mandatory.****

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

- Coaches will review all facts and circumstances surrounding a particular violation and impose appropriate disciplinary actions. Coaches will strive for consistency handing out consequences for all violations and are expected to exercise sound professional judgment in determining the discipline to be applied in each situation. All disciplinary actions will be handled on a case by case basis.
- Olton Athletics will follow UIL Constitution and Contest Rules when dealing with unsportsmanlike ejections from a contest. The athletic director and head coach of the sport will review each case individually to ensure fairness to the athlete.
- Determination of violations of the Olton Athletic Policy will be made by the coach and/or the athletic director.
 - **Category 1/2** violations and disciplinary actions taken will be documented and kept on file while the student remains in high school. The athlete's parent guardian will be contacted.
 - **Category 3** violations should be dealt with by the coach of the sport that the athlete is in when the violation occurs.

QUITTING

1. If an athlete quits a sport within the first 2 weeks from when they started practice in that sport, then there are no consequences facing that athlete concerning the next sport that they participate in.
2. Before an athlete quits a sport they will be given a 24 hour re-think period, during that time the athlete's parents will be notified of the athlete's intentions.
3. If the athlete quits after the 24-hour period, and it is after the first 2 weeks from when they started practice in that sport, he or she will not be allowed to participate in the first 3 weeks of the next sport that they participate in. If the athlete's next sport is actually two concurrent sports (i.e baseball and track) then the athlete will sit out 3 weeks of both sports.
4. The athlete will be allowed/required to practice with the team during this waiting period.
5. This policy is still in effect from the end of one school year (Spring sport) to the start of the next school year (Fall sport).

Exceptions to this rule will be handled on a case by case basis.

COMMITMENT TO A SPORT

Our athletes will display a commitment to everything that they do. A few guidelines will be implemented to assure all athletes are maintaining high standards.

- All athletes must compete in a fall and spring sport.
- All athletes must compete in a minimum of 1 track meet and the district meet.
- Athletes who are in-season are not allowed to practice or participate in their next sport until the sport that began 1st concludes.
 - Example: Football players cannot participate in after-school basketball practice until their duties on the football team are done for that season. Basketball players cannot attend after-school baseball/softball practices until their basketball season is complete.
 - Exception: Girls basketball practices will be held during the period throughout the Volleyball season after labor day.
- Athletes who are participating in a sport must **COMPETE** in that sport in competition above just attending practices.
 - Example: Cross Country, Golf, Powerlifting, and Tennis athletes must compete in a minimum of 3 events including the district meet.
 - Exception: In the event there are not enough roster spots available, an athlete may not have the option to compete. Every effort possible must be made by coaches and athletes to get kids to compete.
- Athletes are encouraged to avoid travel ball/AAU teams while competing in a school sponsored event to assure peak performance (mental and physical) in our events.

ENROLLMENT IN THE ATHLETIC PERIOD

- Beginning in the 2nd Semester, all athletes must be enrolled in the athletic period to participate in an OISD athletic event, unless doing so would prevent meeting academic requirements for graduation.
- All athletes must compete in a fall and winter/spring sport in order to be in the athletic program.
- Seniors will be allowed to sign a senior release form at the conclusion of the 1st semester to be exempt from the athletic period, but still encouraged to participate in a spring sport.

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.

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.
- Team sports will take precedence over individual sports.
- 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.
- Students should not miss a school related event or practice for a travel ball event or practice.

We ask a lot 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.

LETTERING

An athletic award requires serious sacrifices on the part of the student athlete. In order to receive an athletic award, each athlete must participate and complete the season on the varsity team, while meeting the following requirements for each sport:

- Cross Country - 4 or more meets
- Volleyball - 12 or more games
- Football - 5 or more games
- Basketball - 12 or more games
- Baseball / Softball - 12 or more games
- Tennis - 50% of matches
- Golf - 3 or more tournaments

- Powerlifting - 2 or more meets
- Cheerleading - Varsity level

INJURY

Injuries are inevitable when participating in athletics. Injuries during the school year should be reported to a coach as soon as possible. All athletes are required to attend all practices, dress out, and wear the proper equipment while injured.

- Unless the injury is an extreme circumstance, athletes need to contact the head coach AND trainer before visiting a doctor.
- All students are expected to adhere to treatment recommendations when recovering from an injury.
- Athletes will not be allowed to participate in a practice and/or game without approval of the coach and/or trainer.
- Any athlete under a doctor's care will need a written release from the physician before being allowed to return to practice and/or play.
- Athletes that are diagnosed with a concussion must be released by the physician that diagnosed them before starting the return to play protocol.

SCHOOL INSURANCE

All students practicing for, and competing in any athletic activity under the regulation and jurisdiction of the district are covered under the insurance plan. This coverage is not full coverage. **It is a secondary policy only.** It pays for extra expenses which are not taken care of by the athlete's family insurance.

1. If your child is injured, you must contact the head coach of that sport or Athletic Director.
2. You must first file on your personal family insurance.
3. The school insurance will pay on what your personal insurance policy does not.
4. Parents are responsible for filling out forms and returning them to the Athletic Director.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

It is a priority for coaches to maintain an open and positive line of communication with parents and/or guardians of student athletes in our athletic program. Communication is a two way process and parents and/or guardians are expected to communicate any questions or concerns that they may have to the appropriate coach.

Coaches are employed to make decisions concerning strategies, procedures, playing time, evaluation of student performance, and to determine what is best for the team. Playing time is based on competition and every student will benefit from being in the Olton Athletic Program, regardless of how much playing time he/she receives. Every team member will have a role of equal importance, but every team member will NOT receive equal playing time.

Parent/ Guardian Expectations:

1. Be positive and supportive of your son/ daughter and their teammates.
2. Be positive and supportive of the coaching staff and the entire athletic program.
3. Be a positive example of sportsmanship and integrity to your son/daughter.
4. Notify the coach of an injury, illness, or absence in a timely manner.
5. Do not confront a coach before, during, or after a practice or game. Meetings of this nature usually do not promote positive resolutions and can result in suspension from school-related activities.
6. Follow the chain of command when dealing with issues, as follows:
 - STEP 1: Athlete meets with the coach BEFORE you set up a meeting.
 - STEP 2: Parent meeting with position coach/ team coach.
 - STEP 3: Parent meeting with the head coach of that sport.
 - STEP 4: Parent meeting with the Head Coach and Athletic Director
 - STEP 5: If no solution, a meeting with the superintendent can be scheduled.

I have received a copy of the Olton ISD Athletic Handbook and acknowledge that I am responsible for understanding the contents of the code of conduct.

Athlete Name: _____ Signature _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____