



## **POLICIES**

Athletes are public relations ambassadors for their school and as such serve as role models for other students.

### **ACADEMICS**

All students are required to remain academically eligible to participate. Remember No Pass--No Play repeated academic suspensions may result in dismissal from the team.

#### **A. Squad Selection**

In accordance with our philosophy of athletics and our desire to see as many students as possible participation in the athletic program, we encourage coaches to keep as many students as they can without unbalancing the integrity of their sport. Time, space, facilities, equipment, personal preference and other factors will place limitations on the most effective squad size for any particular sport.

#### **B. Cutting**

Choosing the members of athletic squads is the sole responsibility of the coaches of those squads. Prior to tryouts, the coach shall provide the following information to all candidates for the team:

1. Extent of tryout period
2. Criteria used to select the team
3. Number to be selected
4. Practice commitment if they make the team
5. Game commitments

### **DISCIPLINE TECHNIQUES**

The different discipline techniques listed below may be used alone or in combination for the Athlete Code of Conduct and the Hardin ISD Student Code of Conduct violations. The listing is not intended to be a list of progressive sanctions.

1. Verbal Warning
2. Techniques or penalties imposed by individual coach of sport
3. Counseling by coaches
4. Parent/Coach conference with Athletic Director
5. Withdrawal of privileges such as suspension
6. Dismissal from team or program

Any student suspended from athletics must be given the following:

1. The reason for suspension
2. The length and provisions of the suspension
3. The procedures for re-entering the program

## **HAZING**

Hazing is against the law and will not be tolerated in the athletic department. Hazing means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act occurring on or off school property directed against a student, by one person alone, or acting with others, that endangers the mental or physical health or the safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization whose members are to include other students under Education Code 37.152.

## **DRUGS & ALCOHOL**

Refer to Hardin ISD Student Code of Conduct

<https://www.hardinisd.net/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=3497&dataid=3140&FileName=FNFR-Regulations%20Addendum.pdf>

## **PROFANITY & STEALING**

Will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action. An athlete caught and proven guilty of stealing personal items will be dismissed from the team.

## **CONDUCT**

We expect you to conduct yourselves as ladies and gentlemen at all times. This means that you are to follow school rules and procedures while attending class. You are expected to act properly in class, giving your teachers and administrator's courtesy and respect. We know each of you do not have the same learning abilities, but we expect each of you to perform to the best of your ability. Failure to adhere to the above conduct will result in a conference and possible disciplinary action and /or removal from the program.

## **DRESS & APPEARANCE**

Athletes are expected to be well-groomed and may be required to follow a dress code that is stricter than the campus dress code. Student athletes should be leaders, since fellow students respect and follow them. They represent the Hardin ISD Public School, parents, friends, teammates, coaches and above all themselves.

1. Neat and well-groomed at all times.
2. Hair should not extend from the head more than 2" or over the eyebrows. Should not be lower than the ear lobes. Should not be below the top of the collar of a normal dress shirt.

## **INJURY**

We have a trainer who is a qualified expert in the area of athletic injuries. If you have an injury, see the trainer. The trainer will either treat the injury or refer you to a physician. You are required to seek out the trainer when you are injured before seeing a physician, as we need to be aware of the injury.

### **CONFLICT IN ACTIVITIES**

When a conflict arises, the sponsors and coaches will work out a solution so the student does not feel caught in the middle. If a solution cannot be found, the Athletic Director will make the decision based on the following:

1. The relative importance of each event.
2. The importance of each event to the student.
3. The relative contribution the student can make.
4. How long each event has been scheduled.
5. Conference with student and parent.

Once a decision has been made and the student has followed the decision, he or she will not be penalized in any way by either faculty, sponsor, or coach.

### **PHONE USE**

The use of phones will not be tolerated in dressing rooms, during practice, on athletic trips or during events. Phones will not be tolerated when infringing on the privacy of coaches, other students, or when teams are being addressed by coaches. This policy is in direct relation to the laws surrounding the privacy act.

Disciplinary actions for not following privacy rules are;

1. First offense - phone will be taken up for one week
2. Second offense - phone will be taken up for one month
3. Third offense - phone will be taken up for remainder of semester

When offenses are egregious enough that authorities need to be brought in, it will be done immediately without following the above actions:

### **QUITTING OR EXPULSION**

Anyone quitting a sport after the first contest will not be allowed to participate in another sport until the season of the original sport is completed, or, unless Head Coaches of both sports agree that the student would be better off in the other sport. The athletic Director, may at his discretion make an exception to this rule when an event outside of the control of the athlete or his/her family causes the athlete to drop the sport. A clear understanding is to be reached by the Athletic Director and the athlete at the time the sport is dropped. Anyone walking off the field or gym floor during a practice or a game will be considered by the coach to have quit that team.

If at any time athletes quit or are expelled from a team in or out of season, they give up all rights to any honors, which they have earned, but have not yet received.

### **VACATIONS**

Vacations by athletic team members during a sport season are discouraged and while family values will always take precedence over requirements, parents and athletes in conflict between vacations and program requirements may wish to reassess their commitment to being involved in athletics. We urge parents not to plan their vacations during times when there will be conflicts. In the event of an absence due to a vacation that is unavoidable, an athlete must:

1. Contact the head coach two weeks prior to the vacation.
2. Be willing to assume the consequences related to their status on the squad for the time missed.

### **CLUB SPORTS**

A club is a sports program outside of school that is not affiliated with UIL Athletics. We feel our athletes' obligations are to their school teams first. We will not excuse our athletes to miss a school contest or practice for a club event. If an athlete pursues club participation he/she must:

1. Contact all Head Coaches of sports at the school in which he/she is participating in.
2. Be willing to assume the consequences related to their status on the squad or even dismissal for the time participating in club activities without approval of Head Coaches involved at the school.

### **CRIMINAL ACTIVITY**

Any activity that brings disgrace or dishonor to the Hardin Athletic Program will not be tolerated. Such activity may result in dismissal from the program. The consequences are also part of each sport's discipline process.

## **INSURANCE**

Hardin ISD strives in providing each and every student athlete with the best care possible under the guidance of a certified and/or licensed Athletic Trainer. Each year we hope to avoid injuries but unfortunately that is something that cannot be controlled. The reality is that all medical expenses resulting from an athletic injury are inherently the parent's responsibility. Therefore, Hardin ISD has elected to purchase an excess insurance policy for all UIL sanctioned participants even under these tough economic times. Hardin ISD also provides all students the opportunity to purchase an insurance policy with the current insurance company under contract at minimal cost. We encourage all parents to check with the Head Athletic Trainer for details to see if this is something that may benefit them.

Listed below are two (2) scenarios that a parent and/or guardian may find themselves in when their child is hurt during an athletic event and must follow in order to qualify for our "excess" coverage.

- I. If the parent and/or guardian carry primary insurance on the student the following steps should be followed:

- A. All injuries must be reported and documented by the Head Athletic Trainer or one of his assistants.
- B. Injury must have resulted during a sanctioned practice or competition under the supervision of a coach.
- C. The Head Athletic Trainer must approve all visits to the doctor or other providers.
- D. Parents and/or guardians must fill out a claim form within 90 days of injury.
- E. Parents and/or guardians must show proof of insurance when the claim form is filled out.
- F. Parents and/or guardians will submit itemized bills in a timely fashion from all doctors, hospitals or other providers that rendered services to the student athlete.
- G. Insurance companies will pay on whatever the primary insurance has not covered.
- H. Please do be aware that the “excess: coverage may not totally pay all the remaining balances.
- I. Parents and/or guardian are asked to submit a copy of all correspondence from the “excess” insurance company to the Head Athletic Trainer in a timely fashion.

II. If the parent and/or guardian do not carry primary insurance on the student the following student steps should be followed:

- A. All injuries must be reported and documented by the Head Athletic Trainer or one of his assistants.
- B. Injury must have resulted during a sanctioned practice or competition under the supervision of a coach.
- C. The Head Athletic Trainer must approve all visits to the doctor or other providers.
- D. Parents and/or guardian must fill out a claim form within 90 days of injury.
- E. Parents and/or guardian must submit itemized bills in a timely fashion from all doctors, hospitals or other providers that rendered services to the student athlete.
- F. Insurance company will become primary and party on reasonable and customary changes of any athletic related injury. Please be aware, any balances remaining after the insurance has paid, the parent and/or guardian is responsible for the entire amount of balances.
- G. Parents and/or guardian are asked to submit a copy of all correspondence from the “excess” insurance company to the Head Athletic Trainer in a timely fashion.

**HARDIN ISD ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT STUDENT ATHLETE HANDBOOK  
PARENT/STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM**

This Hardin ISD Athletic Handbook has been drawn up to help you gain the greatest possible benefit from our participation in athletics.

It is important that every parent and student athlete understands the policies of the Athletic Department and follows the rules and regulations set forth in the handbook.

Your signatures acknowledge receipt and review of the Athletic Handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date