

Wortham ISD Athletic Policy (approved 4-19-2011)

- I. You are representing more than yourself. You are representing your teammates, coaches, school, parents and community. **Be PROUD of that!**
- II. Participation in Athletics is a **privilege** and not a **right**. Wortham ISD is not required to allow any student to participate. Athletes, however, are required to adhere to this Athletic Policy.
- III. A chain-of-command is in place to help resolve conflicts should they arise. If an athlete or the parent / guardian of an athlete wishes to discuss an issue, the following steps are to be followed:
 - A. Meet with the coach in question. If you are not satisfied then;
 - B. Meet with the Athletic Director. If you are not satisfied then;
 - C. Meet with the High School Principal. If you are not satisfied then;
 - D. Meet with the Superintendent. If you are not satisfied then;
 - E. Meet with the School Board.
- IV. Wortham athletes must be in compliance with the Wortham ISD dress code.
- V. The following safety matters are of the utmost importance:
 - A. The athlete needs to inform a coach immediately of any injury, no matter how small it may seem.
 - B. Players will be instructed in football to never use the head in tackling or blocking.
 - C. The school will carry accident insurance on every athlete. This is supplemental insurance and is intended to help with costs the primary insurance does not cover. Additional expenses are the responsibility of the athlete. The athlete will inform a coach before seeing a doctor so the necessary paperwork can be completed.
- VI. Athletes are required to be enrolled in the Athletic Period the semester prior to the sport in which they wish to participate in addition to enrollment during the current school year.
Exception: students who are new to the district will not be held accountable for the "semester prior" rule.
- VII. If a student quits a sport they will be required to run twenty-five (25) miles before they may participate in another sport. If a student quits Athletics they will be required to run one (1) mile for every day missed in addition to the 25 miles discussed previously before they become eligible for reinstatement.
- VIII. Offenses including and offenses similar, but not limited, to the following will result in one swat, 100 yards of Bear Crawls or 20 towel pushes:
 - A. Equipment left out
 - B. Locker not kept neat
 - C. An unexcused tardy to team meetings or workouts (includes athletic period)
 - D. Being in an unauthorized area without permission:
 - i. Coaches office
 - ii. Equipment room
 - iii. Training Room
- IX. Offenses including and offenses similar, but not limited, to the following will result in a circuit:
 - A. Non-compliance with a coach's directive
 - B. Being disrespectful
 - C. Negative remarks about a team, coach, teammate, teacher, administrator or the school
 - D. Use of profanity
 - E. Unsportsmanlike conduct during games or practice
 - F. Horseplay in any area within the realm of athletics
 - G. Hazing
 - H. Not wearing your school issued workout clothes
 - I. Wearing someone else's workout clothes
 - J. An unexcused absence from team meetings or workouts (includes athletic period)
 - **Repeated offenses will result in the athlete being placed on a behavior contract**

MISSING THE ATHLETIC PERIOD DUE TO ASSIGNMENT TO ISS IS AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE. MISSING ALL OR PART OF THE ATHLETIC PERIOD DUE TO ZEROS IN CLASS IS AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE.

- X. Offenses including and offenses similar, but not limited, to the following will result in 2 circuits and a 1 game suspension:
 - A. Drinking alcoholic beverages
 - B. Illegal drug use
 - C. Use of any form of tobacco
 - D. Theft

- XI. The following offenses will result in immediate dismissal from the athletic program:
 - A. Committing any offense which results in the athlete being placed in AEP (for the duration of the placement)
 - B. Non-compliance with a behavior contract (one calendar year)
 - C. 2nd offense under section X (one calendar year)
 - D. Refusal to participate in consequences as per sections VIII and IX.

- XII. ISS / AEP
 - A. Students assigned to ISS are permitted to practice after school. They are not permitted to participate in a game during the ISS assignment. The student will be permitted to play in a game after the end of the last day of the ISS assignment. The student will not be able to leave school to travel to a game until the end of the last day of the ISS assignment.
 - B. Students placed in AEP are not permitted to practice after school. Each practice missed will be handled as per section IX–J of this document. The student will not be allowed to play in a game until all missed practices are made up.

- XIII. Athletes will travel to and from out-of-town events in the school provided transportation. Extenuating circumstances will be considered by the Athletic Director or, in the event the Athletic Director cannot be reached, the coach in charge. Sub-varsity athletes may ride home with their parents if the following conditions are met: the coach must be notified in advance; the coach has received a note with a parent signature; and the coach sees the athlete leave with their parent.

- XIV. Letter Jacket Policy

A letter jacket is awarded when an athlete earns five (5) Bulldog points. One (1) Bulldog point is awarded for participation and one (1) is earned for significant contribution in a varsity role. Participation in UIL events outside of Athletics can also earn Bulldog points.

Example 1) A student plays only football. As a freshman this student plays on the Junior Varsity; as a sophomore and junior the student plays on the Varsity. This student earned 1 Bulldog point their freshman year and 2 Bulldog points both their sophomore and junior year. This student now has 5 Bulldog points and will be awarded a letter jacket.

Example 2) As a freshman a student plays Junior Varsity basketball and Varsity tennis. The student has earned 1 point for basketball and 2 for tennis, for a total of 3 points. The student also participated in Band, which earned 1 point. The student tried out for, and made, the All-Region band. The student has earned an additional point for this, resulting in a total of five (5). The student will now be awarded a letter jacket.

- XV. Due to the inevitability of the existence of extenuating circumstances, the Athletic Director retains powers of discretion in all matters concerning Athletics whether or not they are contained within this document.

Please cut along the line and return the bottom section with the Athlete and Parent signature and dates.

I have read the Wortham Athletic Policy and agree to operate within the parameters of this policy.

Athlete: _____ Date: _____

Parent: _____ Date: _____