



# *Student Athlete / Parent Handbook*

**Athletic Services  
P.O. Drawer Z  
Freeport, Texas 77542  
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## STUDENT ATHLETE/PARENT HANDBOOK

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your son or daughter has expressed a desire to participate in the Athletic Program in the Brazosport ISD. It is the belief of the coaching staff that athletics can do more for your child than teach him/her to play the sport he/she has chosen. We believe athletics instills the desire to win, attain personal goals ensuring maximum team effort, builds strength of body, and strength of character. The latter of these qualities determines the success of the first three.

It is our belief that strength of character is the foundation upon which to build the well-developed, well-polished individual. Athletes, as people in any specialized field, have a unique role to play. Athletes are constantly being monitored by their peers, teachers, and the community. By constantly being under this scrutiny, athletes must have strength of character and be constantly aware of the role they have assumed. They must be certain they present to their peers, teachers, and community respect, sincerity, and honesty expected of a young lady or gentleman. We believe very strongly that our athletes should possess these qualities. Because of this belief, we have established the following set of guidelines to be followed by all athletes in the Brazosport ISD.

### **ALL ATHLETES, REGARDLESS OF SPORT, MUST:**

1. Abide by all University Interscholastic League (UIL) rule specifications, and abide by local athletic policy.
2. Attend every practice session and athletic contest unless ill or emergency situations. (Parents or athlete must call in if the athlete is not attending a practice session.)
4. Abide by all Brazosport ISD, Athletic Department, and campus guidelines and policies.
5. Maintain an academic focus to achieve success in the classroom.

Violation of these policies will result in appropriate disciplinary action being taken against the student and could result in his/her removal from the athletic program in the Brazosport ISD. Therefore, we ask your cooperation in motivating your son or daughter to observe these rules so that he or she will receive the maximum benefit from the program. Enclosed is an information handbook for Brazosport ISD Athletics, which includes guidelines and policies for the student-athletes. We have discussed these rules with your son or daughter. Please read them, discuss them again with your son or daughter.

Sincerely,

Dean DeAtley    Ben Rudolph  
Associate Director of Athletics    Associate Director of Athletics  
Brazoswood High School    Brazosport High School

## **GOALS OF THE BRAZOSPORT ISD ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT**

- **To provide a positive image** of school athletics in Brazosport ISD
- To strive always for **playing excellence that will produce winning teams** within the bounds of **good sportsmanship**

To ensure growth and development that will **increase the number of participants; To provide opportunities** that will allow the **program to teach students how to handle situations similar** to those in the contemporary world

**To provide an opportunity for students to experience success** in those activities he or she selects

**To provide sufficient activities** to respond to a wide variety of student interests and abilities

To provide student activities which will offer the greatest benefits for the greatest number of students

**To create a desire in students to succeed and excel**

To develop in students **high ideals of fairness in all human relationships**

To teach students to practice **self-discipline and emotional maturity** in learning to make decisions under pressure

To teach students to be **socially competent and operate within a set of rules**, thus gaining a respect for the rights of others

**To develop in students an understanding of the value of activities in a balanced educational process**

## **WHAT WE VALUE**

- We value developing championship people.
- We value graduation rates.
- We value the education of students.
- We value the focus on the team.
- We value the focus on developing character..

### **~ PURSUING VICTORY WITH HONOR ~**

#### Basic Philosophy

#### **Winning Is Important**

Winning is important and trying to win is essential. Without the passionate pursuit of victory much of the enjoyment, as well as the educational and spiritual value, of sports will be lost.

#### **Honor Is More Important**

Sports programs should not trivialize winning or the desire to win. To dismiss victory by saying, "It's only a game" can be disrespectful to athletes and coaches who devote their time to being the best they can be in the pursuit of individual victories, records, championships, and medals. But the greatest value of sports is its ability to enhance and uplift the character of participants and spectators.

#### **Ethics Is Essential to True Winning**

The best strategy to improve sports is not to de-emphasize winning but to more vigorously emphasize that adherence to ethical standards and sportsmanship in the honorable pursuit of victory is essential to winning in its true sense. It is one thing to be declared the winner, it is quite another to really win.

#### **There Is No True Victory Without Honor**

Cheating and bad sportsmanship are not options. They rob victory of meaning and replace the high ideals of sport with the petty values of a dog-eat-dog marketplace. Victories attained in dishonorable ways are hollow and degrade the concept of sport.

#### **Ethics and Sportsmanship Are Ground Rules**

Programs that adopt Pursuing Victory With Honor are expected to take whatever steps are necessary to assure that coaches and athletes are committed to principles of ethics and sportsmanship as ground rules governing the pursuit of victory. Their responsibilities to demonstrate and develop good character must never be subordinate to the desire to win. It is never proper to act unethically in order to win.

#### **Benefits of Sports Come From the Competition, Not the Outcome**

Quality amateur sports programs are based on the belief that vital lessons and great value of sports are learned from the honorable pursuit of victory, from the competition itself rather than the outcome.

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## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SCHOOL**

1. Transportation: To provide transportation to and from athletic contests
2. Facilities, Supplies, and Equipment: To provide supplies, equipment, and facilities essential for our student-athletes to compete
3. Student safety and development: To employ and teach proper training methods, to provide properly fitted safety equipment, to provide first aid to injuries, and to seek the care of a trained medical professional for emergency injuries

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COACHES**

1. To provide first and foremost the safety of the participating student-athletes
2. To encourage the student-athletes to give maximum effort in the classroom and to periodically monitor student grades to ensure academic success
3. To schedule games and to make travel arrangements
4. To carry out any needed discipline for infractions within the athletic program.
5. To complete eligibility forms and to adhere to all UIL rules
6. To teach the skills necessary for the student-athlete to successfully participate in sports
7. To teach sportsmanship and respect for officials
8. To set the proper example of sportsmanship
9. To take care of equipment and facilities

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDENT-ATHLETES**

1. To represent the school and the community with character and good sportsmanship. Other communities, as well as our own, judge our school by the conduct and attitudes of our student-athletes, both on and off the field.
2. To be responsible to the other members of the team. Giving less than his/her best effort is letting their teammates down.
3. To be responsible to his/her family. The student-athlete should not do anything that will bring shame or dishonor to his/her parents.
4. To be responsible to the younger students in the school system by providing an example to follow. He/she should always remember that they are important role models to younger student-athletes.
5. To strive for academic success along with athletic success. To continue to participate and remain eligible, the student-athlete must meet all eligibility standards set by the school and the state.
6. To adhere to all school policies and all athletic policies.
7. To train properly and refrain from activities that is potentially harmful to their bodies.

## **THE PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY:**

The program goal of the Brazosport ISD Athletic Program is to build the character and integrity of the young men and women that participate and to develop within them worthwhile goals that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. No student is required to take part in athletics, nor is participation necessary for graduation. Belonging to a team is a privilege for any student who is capable of competing and willing to conform to the high standards and ideals of Brazosport ISD Athletics. Special standards for participation will be expected, and when an individual fails to comply, the privilege of participating in athletics may be revoked.

## **HAZING:**

At no time will any student athlete cause any harm to another student athlete. Any form of hazing will be subject to suspension or removal from the athletic program.

## **CONDUCT:**

The same rules of conduct, dress, language, respect, etc. that apply in the student handbook in the regular classroom setting will also apply in the athletic setting. Athletes may also be held responsible for any additional rules of conduct so established by the coaching staff to maintain discipline, order, and safety.

## **MISSING ATHLETIC PRACTICES:**

All athletes are expected to inform their coach if they are not able to be at practice. If any athlete is at school, they are expected to be in the athletic period. Any athlete that misses a practice session will be expected to make the workout up with a conditioning portion of that workout. The coach may hold an athlete from participation in the game until all practices are made up. An injury or illness with a doctor's excuse is not considered missing practice if the athlete has reported to the coach and is under doctor's supervision. Should a consistent pattern of missing practices occur, the athlete may be removed from that team.

## **MAJOR VIOLATIONS:**

Any student who participates in extra-curricular activities who is arrested or charged of a felony shall be suspended from participating in extracurricular contests until the matter is resolved. Upon any determination that the student is falsely accused or charged, the suspension shall be removed. Conditioning and/or community service may also be added to the punishment as determined by the AD.

It is the intent of this policy that all penalties, sanctions, suspensions, and removals shall be imposed only upon notice and after the student is afforded an opportunity to meet with the athletic director and/or the campus principal, learn of the accusations against him or her, and explain his or her side of the story. Nothing in this policy shall exclude or limit a coach, director, or sponsor from documenting and addressing breaches of sportsmanship and team rules by imposing disciplinary consequences that are determined within each program. Repeated such violations may lead to dismissal from the program.

## **MISSING A GAME:**

An athlete that misses a competitive game for reason other than illness or a family crisis is subject to conditional or permanent suspension. If an athlete has to miss a game, he/she should contact the coach and make arrangement ahead of time. Prior arrangements may or may not be excusable but the courtesy is expected.

## **VIOLATION OF TRAINING RULES:**

The use of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or narcotics will not be tolerated. An athlete may be removed from the Brazosport ISD Athletic Program with the accumulation of major violations during their athletic career. Examples of major violations include but are not limited to: alcohol, drugs, tobacco, any criminal activity (whether or not such conduct results in a conviction), persistent misbehavior, / or persistently failing grades in classroom, etc. (as determined by the AD). These training rules are to be followed throughout the year (in season, off season and summer).

### **Alcohol: (Use or Possession)**

#### **1) First Offense –**

Conference with Associate Director of Athletics and Head Coach, sport specific conditioning program (10 days in length and must be completed outside of the athletic period/practice) during this probationary time period the athlete is still considered on the team and may participate in team related activities.

#### **2) Second Offense –**

Conference with Associate Director of Athletics and Head Coach, sport specific conditioning program (20 days in length and must be completed outside of the athletic period/practice), and a suspension of 20% of the contest schedule if during season.

#### **3)**

#### **Third Offense –**

Conference with Associate Director of Athletics and Head Coach, and serve a 30 school day suspension from contests if during season (the athlete is expected to continue practicing with the team) – the student athlete must complete a sport specific conditioning program of 30 days.

#### **4)**

**Fourth Offense –** Suspension from athletic program for one calendar year

## **T**

### **obacco: (Use or Possession)**

#### **1)**

**First Offense -** Conference with Associate Director of Athletics and Head Coach, sport specific conditioning program (10 days in length and must be completed outside of the athletic period/practice) during this probationary time period the athlete is still considered on the team and may participate in team related activities.

2) **Second Offense** - -

Conference with Associate Director of Athletics and Head Coach, sport specific conditioning program (20 days in length and must be completed outside of the athletic period/practice).

3)

**Third Offense** - -

Conference with Associate Director of Athletics and Head Coach, sport specific conditioning program (30 days in length and must be completed outside of the athletic period/practice).

**Drugs: (Use or Possession)**

1. **First Offense** - -

Conference with Associate Director of Athletics and Head Coach, sport specific conditioning program (15 days in length and must be completed outside of the athletic period/practice) during this probationary time period the athlete is still considered on the team and may participate in team practice activities but will be suspended from 30% of the full contest schedule if during season. If the student athlete has tested positive in the BISD drug testing program then they will be suspended from all practice activities for 15 days.

2. **Second Offense** - -

Conference with Associate Director of Athletics and Head Coach, sport specific conditioning program (30 days in length and must be completed outside of the athletic period/practice) during this probationary time period the athlete is still considered on the team and may participate in team practice activities but will be suspended from 60% of the full contest schedule if during season. If the student athlete has tested positive in the BISD drug testing program then they will be suspended from all practice activities for 30 days.

**Third Offense** - -

Conference with Associate Director of Athletics and Head Coach, and be subject to a suspension from all athletic related activities for one calendar year.

Student Drug Testing Program-See Board Policy FNF (Local) **A violation may be based on, but is not necessarily limited to the following criteria:**

A. A law enforcement officer has observed and reported the behavior.

B.

A district athletic employee has observed the behavior and reported it to the principal or AD who will investigate further.

The student is accused and admits to such behavior before a district employee.

A law enforcement officer has given the student a citation for such behavior.

Violations will be treated in a cumulative manner. Violations can accumulate for intermediate grades of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> (Violations will not carry over to the student's high school years of participation). Violations incurred from 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade will be treated in a cumulative manner.

All violations will be reviewed by the Associate Athletic Director and the Head Coach of their respective sport(s). The level systems described are a minimum punishment system and by design are intended to help persuade our student athletes to refrain from harmful activities. Punishments, suspensions and removal from the athletic program will be at the discretion of the Associate Athletic Director.



**Athletes Assigned to Detention or, In School Suspension (ISS)**, An athlete may be assigned additional discipline consequences for a violation of the Student Code of Conduct that results in an athlete being assigned Detention or In School Suspension.. The athlete will do a sport specific punishment for each day they have been assigned to a Detention or In School Suspension. Athletes assigned ISS or Detention will be expected to continue with team related activities (practices) but may be suspended for contests for repeated offenses Athletes who are persistently assigned to Detention or ISS may be removed from the Athletic Program.

### **Athletes Assigned to Discipline Alternative Education Placement (Lighthouse Learning Center)**

If a student is assigned to the DAEP, there must be a conference with the Associate Athletic Director and the Head Coach once the athlete returns to the home campus before the student is allowed to participate in a sport. At the conference, a determination will be made if the student will continue in the athletic program or not. Conditions will be set if it is determined the athlete will return to the athletic program.

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY:**

The health and safety of all athletes is of paramount importance. Rules favoring training, hygiene, diet, and safety shall be promoted and enforced under the supervision of the coach and AD. No coach shall knowingly permit an athlete to participate in an athletic activity when such participation would, or might endanger an athlete.

### **MEDICAL POLICY:**

In any sports activity, there is an inherent risk of injury. Brazosport ISD does not carry insurance coverage on student athletes. Parents or guardians of the athlete are responsible for medical insurance coverage for their child. Many companies offer affordable student injury insurance coverage for athletes participating in school activities. The district reserves its right to at any time cancel or change insurance coverage. Under no circumstances will the district be liable for any medical costs.

## **SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION:**

The Brazosport ISD Athletic Department will aid in every way to obtain scholarships to higher institutions. Coaches will take the time to send letters, tapes, evaluations, etc. for any athlete that has a desire to participate in college athletics. At no time shall the coach mislead the college, athlete, or parents about the ability, grades, character, etc. of any athlete.

## **TRAVEL:**

All athletes must travel with the team. No athlete will be allowed to drive himself/herself to the site of a contest. All athletes are expected to ride the bus home after the game. Special arrangements must be made with the coach for a parent to take the athlete home after a contest. The coach must have a signed statement from the parent.

## **ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION:**

There shall be no student omitted from participation at any level as long as the individual is:

1. Eligible by UIL standards
2. Attends practice as required
3. Not considered a discipline problem.



We will attempt to play every athlete below the varsity level in every game if he/she is allowed to suit up for the contest. The amount of playing time will be based on ability, desire, practice performance, and attitude.



All athletes will lift weights, participate in agility and running programs, and participate in conditioning drills designed to develop strength, quickness, and endurance throughout the school year.

## **APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE:**

Profanity will not be tolerated. Physical conditioning may be used as a consequence for use of profanity.

## **LETTERING:**

All varsity athletes will be awarded a letter in his/her sport when they finish the year in good standing in the athletic program and has made a positive contribution to the team. Only one jacket will be awarded per four years of competition. Special consideration will be given to seniors or injured athletes on the varsity team that do not fulfill the lettering requirements.

Managers may be recommended for lettering purposes if they serve as full-time managers for the entire season in that sport. The requirements for earning a letter jacket are that sport's head coach decision.

## **STEALING:**

Stealing will not be tolerated in Brazosport ISD. Stealing could also be interpreted to involve school equipment not turned in after the season is completed. An athlete caught stealing may result in physical conditioning, suspension, or dismissal from the program.

## **SUPPLEMENTS:**

The taking of supplements such as powders, drinks, pills, creatine, etc. is not necessary for success. At no time should any athlete have any supplements at the school. Nothing replaces a good balanced diet and a complete weight and conditioning program.

### **Brazosport ISD Athletics**

#### **The Parent's Role**

Being the parent of an interscholastic athlete can be a great experience. Brazosport ISD has many different sports. Parents' participation with their son or daughter can be and should be an enjoyable activity. Their support is very important to their athletes, the high school and community. To make this experience the most rewarding for all concerned, the following are some suggestions on being a supportive athletic parent:

- 1. Be positive** - Being on a school team is quite an accomplishment. Do not let playing time dictate the athlete's happiness. Celebrate the fact he/she was good enough to make a team. When things are not going well for your son/daughter or for the team is when parents need to be most positive and supportive.
- 2. Be supportive** of coaching staff in front of your son/daughter. Nothing can injure teamwork faster than athletes doubting the capabilities of their coaches. The coaches are trying to do their best at every moment. If you have concerns, follow the BISD Athletic Department communication process. Our staff will listen, appreciate your confidentiality and give you a timely response. Negative comments made by parents on social media that may be a detriment to the team and/or authority of the coach may result in suspension or removal of an athlete from the athletic program.
- 3. Be part of a parent network** - Whether you are part of a booster club or not, very special relationships can be fostered over the careers of athletes by socializing with other parents. This socialization can take place at games, after games, at team dinners, etc. Parents need support too! Be positive with each other and do not hesitate to remind each other about remaining positive at all times. If you hear a "rumor" that concerns you about any athletic issue, call a BISD coach to verify or clarify what you've heard. Don't perpetuate a rumor by passing it on or by remaining silent about an issue that could affect a program.
- 4. Booster parents** - We appreciate the fact that you are an active booster parent and supportive of our total program. Don't feel you are obligated to donate funds or equipment to our athletic program in order for it to be successful. While we have financial needs from time to time, our school historically has made a strong commitment to athletics. Your attendance at our sporting events and encouraging other fans to come and watch our athletic teams perform would be of tremendous support. Booster parents are also encouraged to be involved in ongoing booster meetings and projects for all sports. Your membership and participation in our Booster Clubs is very much appreciated.

**5. Winning and losing** - It shall be our staff's goal to pursue excellence in the school's athletic program, through motivating students to achieve to the best of their ability, while honoring themselves with their talents. Winning, under a positive goal-oriented environment, can be a natural and enjoyable outgrowth of this attitude. Everyone enjoys a well-played victory, but a "Winning is Everything" philosophy cannot become the controlling force. Too much is sacrificed when that philosophy is dominant. The philosophy should be to be honorable in our attitudes and skills and whether we win the physical victory or not, we have still won the game of life.

**6. College Scholarships** - Having lofty expectations for our children is a normal and healthy goal. In striving for these expectations, we must also be realistic. Not everyone can receive a college scholarship, nor should your child's athletic success be measured by the number of offers he or she receives. We have received our share of scholarships based on all the hard work you, the athletes and the coaches have put in. Our coaches will help individuals and parents in whatever way they can to find an opportunity for those who wish to pursue collegiate careers. Coaches will not, however, recommend a school at which the athlete cannot potentially be successful.

**8. Other thoughts** - The success of our athletic program is not dictated by the athlete alone. Our school's teams, students and adult supporters should work together. If the contributions of either are less than total, everyone stands to lose. We have a tremendous amount of support for our athletes by the coaches, administration and the board. We thank you for your support and participation.

**U.I.L SPORTS OFFERED**  
BY BISD ATHLETICS

**HIGH SCHOOL (9-12)**

Baseball  
Basketball (Boys and Girls)  
Cross Country (Boys and Girls)  
Football  
Golf (Boys and Girls)  
Soccer (Boys and Girls)  
Softball  
Sports Medicine (Boys and Girls)  
Swimming (Boys and Girls)  
Tennis (Boys and Girls)  
Track (Boys and Girls)  
Volleyball  
Water Polo (Brazoswood)  
Wrestling (Brazoswood)

**JUNIOR HIGH (7-8)**

Basketball (Boys and Girls)  
Football  
Tennis (Boys and Girls)  
Track (Boys and Girls)  
Volleyball

Please note that in the middle schools all sports practice before or after school when in-season. Due to coaching staff and schedule constraints, some middle school sports only practice after school when in-season (tennis and track). The middle school athletic class period is designed to be a general Athletic

Development class, all student-athletes are encouraged to participate in the class even if his/her sport is only practiced before or after school.

Also, please note that some club sports (**powerlifting and water polo**) utilize the Brazoswood Buccaneer /Brazosport Exporter name and logo but are not sanctioned by the University Interscholastic League. Since the students who belong to the club sport teams are Buccaneers/Exporters we fully support them in their endeavors. Please direct all questions relating to these club sports to each club's coach or athletic director.

**Dismissal / Quitting Policy**

Upon deciding to quit, any athlete will be given a 48 hour grace period, or cooling off period. At that time (or before then), the athlete will make a rational decision as to whether he/she still wants to quit. If still wishing to quit, the athlete must completely fill out a BISD Athletic Quit Form, have it signed by their parent(s) and themselves, and then hand it back to their head coach or athletic coordinator. Once the paperwork is turned in and signed by all parties, the athlete is not eligible for sport-specific practices or contests for 21 CALENDAR DAYS. Failure to fill out a quit form properly will forfeit the athlete from participating in sports in the future.

**Compromise "Quit" Rule –**

*If there is a compromise between coach and athlete on good terms about leaving the team or sport, the 21-Day Rule can be waived with approval from the athletic director. (This usually occurs only when both parties feel it is best for the overall team not to play any longer because of unusual circumstances).*

**Brazosport ISD Athletic Quit Form**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have decided, after careful consideration to my coaches and teammates, to quit \_\_\_\_\_, which is the sport I am getting out of. I have been given a 2-Day (48 hour) period to fully evaluate my decision. I feel this is the best decision for me and my teammates. I understand that I cannot participate in practices or contests in any sport for 21 Calendar days. I understand that by quitting again, I will most likely forfeit any future participation in BISD athletics altogether. I can return to BISD athletics after a 60-Day school window and return date has been established.

Athlete Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Head Coach Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Athletic Director Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Signed and Dated \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

*This student / athlete is allowed to return to specific sport practices and contests on the following date: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_*

## STUDENT - PARENT Athletic Handbook

### Brazosport ISD Athletics

I have read the athletic handbook and understand the policies of the athletic program. I agree to follow all rules and guidelines expressed in the handbook.

I am ready to make the sacrifices and to provide the effort necessary to make myself and BISD the best we can be.

I will strive to follow the following guidelines that exemplify the Student Athlete behavior.

1. I will follow all Brazosport ISD and UIL rules and policies.
2. I will be a leader and will handle all of my academic responsibilities.
3. I will have respect for myself and for those in authority.
4. I will not lie or steal.
5. I will not use alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco or other harmful substances.
6. I will give my best effort at all times.
7. I will use appropriate language.
8. I realize the importance of practice, and I will personally strive to participate in 100% of the workouts. I am aware that missed workouts result in make-ups the day I return.
9. I will always put the interests of the team above my individual interests.
10. I will treat the locker-room as if it were my home away from home. I will keep it neat and always pick up after myself.
11. I realize the terms and consequences of quitting.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT-ATHLETE'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT-ATHLETE'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_