

***KENNEDALE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK***

Dear Kennedale Wildcats, Lady Kats, and Parents,

We are pleased to have you as a part of the Kennedale Athletic Program. We sincerely hope that the experience you have in the athletic program will be both enjoyable and successful. Your coaches are looking forward to helping you grow through athletics.

The information contained herein has been provided for you to read and study carefully, as it is your responsibility to know the rules and regulations of the Kennedale Athletic Program. This handbook is used as a guide for our high school programs. However, additional rules may be given by your coach in each sport.

Any questions that you may have should be brought to the attention of your coach. He or she will be happy to assist you in any way possible.

Once again, we want to welcome you to our team:

The Kennedale ISD Athletic Program!!!

**Richard Barrett
Athletic Director/Head Coach**

PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS

Interscholastic athletics is an integral part of the educational process. Involvement in the athletic program is a privilege not a guaranteed right. Therefore, all student-athletes will be held to a higher standard. There will be requirements and demands that will be made, not imposed on the general school population.

There is an impressive array of athletic programs, which are available as a means of participation. Each team will have rules, regulations and stipulations regarding participation, awards, lettering, and additional requirements that are mandatory for remaining on the team as a member in good standing.

The purpose of the athletic program is to:

- **Ensure students, school, and communities can receive the greatest educational, social, recreational and aesthetic benefits from the contest;**
- **Preserve the game for the overall benefit of the contestant and not sacrifice the contestant to the game;**
- **To promote the spirit of good sportsmanship and fair play in all contests;**
- **To promote among the players, schools, and communities a spirit of friendly rivalry and respect for the rules; and**
- **To forward the concept of accepting decisions of sports official as co-partners in the educational process of competition.**

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM A COACH?

- 1. A genuine and up-to-date knowledge of the sport.**
- 2. A fair and unprejudiced relationship with all players.**
- 3. Firm disciplinary action if an athlete displays unsportsmanlike conduct or breaks the team rules.**
- 4. 100% effort to help each student reach his/her maximum potential.**
- 5. Genuine concern with all areas of the athlete's growth (academic, athletics, and citizenship).**

ELIGIBILITY FOR ATHLETICS

Each student-athlete participating in athletics must have on file approval sheet signed by their parent(s) or legal guardian. Because the school is a member in good standing with the UIL all rules and regulations will be strictly enforced. There are specific requirements for participating in athletics. Each coach and the players will review the explanation of all team rules. There will be parental and athlete consent from to sign and return. By signing this form all parties will agree to abide by the rules and allow the coach to make decisions in the best interest of the team. This form will remain on file in the coach's office.

SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY

Boys and Girls athletics is an extracurricular activity. Athletic classes will count as physical education credit for no more than four semesters. In order for a senior to be eligible to play he or she must have a minimum of 15 credits. A junior must have a minimum of 10 credits. A sophomore must a minimum of 5 credits. A freshman must have been promoted and not placed at the high school level.

A student must pass (70 or above) all classes on their report card to be eligible to participate in a game, tournament, meet, etc. If a student fails one or more classes on a report card the student becomes ineligible. A student that becomes ineligible by failing a class may regain their eligibility in two ways:

- (1) Pass all classes on the three week grade check; or
- (2) Pass all classes on the next report card.

There is a one week waiting period after a report card (six weeks) or (three weeks) before a student is eligible or becomes eligible again. An ineligible student-athlete may attend and participate in any team practices or meeting. However, a student-athlete may not travel with the team, participate in games, pep rallies or parades, be on the bench or sideline during games, or act as a manager or statistician.

GRADING IN ATHLETICS

Grades are not based on a student-athletes' athletic ability. Grades will be based on the student-athletes' willingness to act, behave and cooperate in such a manner that will allow for the success of the athlete and the program itself. All student-athletes will begin each grading period with a grade of 100. Points will

be subtracted for conduct or behavior unbecoming or detrimental to the program. Excessive absenteeism could result in a failing grade. An athlete could possibly fail the class or be removed from athletics.

PRACTICE SESSIONS

All practices will be scheduled by the head coach or coaches of that sport. Athletes are expected to attend every practice. When circumstances warrant one being excused from practice, permission should be requested from the head coach in advance. Injured athletes should make every attempt to observe practice. All squad or team members are expected to be dressed and at the designated area at the appropriate time. Missed practices can and will result in a loss of playing time. Each sport may have their own regimen for making up missed practices. For example: football- 2 miles, basketball- 5horses, baseball and softball- foul poles. (These are only examples of what a coach may consider as appropriate conditioning for missed practices.) There will be no mandatory practices or contests held on Sunday. Parents/spectators are welcomed at practice sessions. However, please do not interrupt by talking to players or coaches during practice.

TRY-OUTS

If the situation warrants athletes to try-out in order to make the team the coach will determine the criteria to be used. After a review of all the pertinent information the coach will determine who has performed well enough to make the team. No one will be able to view the results of anyone other than their own scores. Alternating individuals or a group or team may be implemented to ensure everyone receives playing time. This alternative will be used at the discretion of the coach.

SPECIALIZATION/RECRUITING

1. Specialization in any one sport is discouraged by the Athletic Department.
2. All athletes are encouraged to participate in all sports in which they have an interest.
3. Athletes will not be restricted to any one sport by a coach.
4. Athletes will not be recruited from one sport to another by a coach.
5. Any athlete, parent, or coach suspecting a violation of these rules is asked to notify the Athletic Director at once.

TRANSPORTATION OR TEAM TRAVEL

1. Team members will travel to and from contests on school provided transportation. Athletes may return with their parents if the parents make arrangements with the coach prior to leaving Kennedale. Students will only be released to the parent or other designated adults in the written request.
2. There will be no gambling, tobacco, drugs, or alcohol allowed on any trip.
3. The coaches will see that teams return to Kennedale as soon as possible after a contest, especially on school nights. Parents should be told when to expect the team home. Maps will be provided to the out-of-town games.
4. Athletes should help keep the bus as clean as possible. Coaches will expect them to pick-up around their seat before leaving the bus.
5. Food and drinks are not allowed on the bus unless approved by the coach.
6. Athletes should be on time or be left behind. Unless prior approval of the situation has been approved by the head coach, no athlete will be driven by a parent or drive themselves to a contest and participate in an athletic event.

GROOMING STANDARDS

1. Athletes are expected to be as neat and clean as possible.
2. Male athletes will be clean shaven. Sideburns will not extend pass the bottom of the earlobe.
3. Hair coloring or styles that are considered to be for the sole purpose of setting the athlete apart from his/her teammates will not be tolerated. Hair for male athletes may not extend below the middle of the neck.
4. Male athletes will not be allowed to have any visible body piercing. (This would include but not be limited to tongue, nose, ear, eyebrow, naval, etc.)
5. Female athletes may wear earrings only in their ears. No other jewelry or spacers may be worn.

GAME DAY ATTIRE

The Athletic Department desires to project an image of unity and cohesiveness. By instituting a policy of wearing a designated team shirt and khaki pants on game day this can be made possible. There will be no specific brand of khaki pants to be purchased. Because athletes are held to a higher standard looking uniform would aid in reinforcing this concept. This attire will be worn the entire school day. It will also be worn to all the out-of-town games.

FUND RAISERS

Each sport may have fund raisers to supplement the actual budget of that sport. Approval of the fund raisers will be given by the president of that sports' booster club, the booster club council, and the athletic director.

EQUIPMENT

Athletes will be issued equipment throughout the school year. Each athlete will be responsible for the return of the equipment or payment if lost or stolen. An athlete will also be required to return all issued equipment upon the request of the coach. Prices of all equipment will be replacement costs. All athletes will be issued a locker and a combination lock. Athletes should lock their belongings in their designated locker before, during, and after practice. If a lock is lost a replacement fee will be charged.

ATHLETIC AWARDS

Suitable awards within the rules of the University Interscholastic League will be given to those who show sufficient proficiency and effort in the opinion of the coaches. Participants in all sports are eligible for consideration for awards. The coach will have the final say in determining whether a player is to receive a letter jacket or any other award. Attitude, attendance, conduct and other requirements may be used to determine a participant receiving an award. Students may receive only one \$50.00 award while attending Kennedale High School, plus an \$8.00 award for each additional sport he/she letters in provided that:

1. He/she completes the season as a squad member.
2. He/she is in good standing at the end of the season.
3. Any participant, regardless of quarters (innings, meets, games) played, will receive a regular award provided he/she has been on the squad for 3 years (sophomore, junior, senior years) and has met workout and training requirements.

A. Varsity Teams

Football

1. Athletes who play twenty quarters will receive a \$55.00 letter jacket.
2. Any varsity member who does not letter will receive an \$8.00 award.
3. Must be academically eligible the entire season.

4. **Must finish the year in good standing within the Athletic Department.**
5. **Managers serving for two years will receive a \$55.00 letter jacket.**

Volleyball

1. **Must be academically eligible the entire season**
2. **Must complete the season.**
3. **Must be on the varsity half of the season.**
4. **Must finish the year in good standing within the Athletic Department**
5. **Managers serving for two years will receive a \$55.00 letter jacket.**
6. **Any varsity team member who does not letter will receive an \$8.00 award.**

Basketball

1. **Must be academically eligible the entire season**
2. **An athlete who plays one half of all quarters on varsity will receive a \$55.00 letter jacket.**
3. **Must finish the year in good standing within the Athletic Department**
4. **Managers serving for two years will receive a \$55.00 letter jacket.**
5. **Any varsity team member who does not letter will receive an \$8.00 award.**

Baseball and Softball

1. **Must be academically eligible the entire season**
2. **An athlete who plays one half on total innings for the season will receive a \$55.00 letter jacket.**
3. **Must finish the year in good standing within the Athletic Department**
4. **Managers serving for two years will receive a \$55.00 letter jacket.**
5. **Any varsity team member who does not letter will receive an \$8.00 award.**

Track and Cross Country

1. **Must be academically eligible the entire season**
2. **An athlete who qualifies for post- season meets or scores in the District meet will receive a \$55.00 letter jacket.**
3. **Must finish the year in good standing within the Athletic Department**
4. **Managers serving for two years will receive a \$55.00 letter jacket.**
5. **Any varsity team member who does not letter will receive an \$8.00 award.**

Soccer

1. **Must be academically eligible the entire season.**
2. **Must finish the year in good standing within the Athletic Department.**
3. **Managers serving for two years will receive a \$55.00 letter jacket.**

4. Any varsity team member who does not letter will receive an \$8.00 award.

Power Lifting

1. Must be academically eligible the entire season.
2. An athlete who participates in all but one of the scheduled meets (the one miss must be due to participation in another school-related contest or event, sickness and/or death in the family) and qualifies for the regional meet will receive a \$55.00 letter jacket.
3. Must finish the year in good standing within the Athletic Department.
4. Managers serving for two years will receive a \$55.00 letter jacket.
5. Any varsity team member who does not letter will receive an \$8.00 award.

Golf and Tennis

1. Must be academically eligible the entire season
2. An athlete who qualifies for post-season tournaments will receive a \$55.00 letter jacket.
3. Must finish the year in good standing within the Athletic Department
4. Managers serving for two years will receive a \$55.00 letter jacket.
5. Any varsity team member who does not letter will receive an \$8.00 award.

Junior Varsity and Freshman Teams

An \$8.00 award will be awarded to each Jr. Varsity and Freshman team member under the following conditions:

1. That he/she completes the season as a squad member.
2. That he/ she is in good standing at the end of the season.

CHANGING SPORTS

1. From the time a team plays its first scheduled contest, a student cannot quit or be dismissed from that team and join another team until the first team's season is over.
2. Exceptions to this rule may be permitted under these conditions:
 - a. If the athlete has a doctor's statement that he/she drop the first sport for medical reasons and permitting participation in the second sport.
 - b. If both coaches involved and the Athletic Director agree that a mid-season change would be beneficial to the athlete with out being unfair to the individuals of either team.
3. Before an athlete is cleared to go to another sport, he/she must turn in all equipment and pay for lost or damaged equipment.
4. An athlete must not change classes or stop reporting to a sport until notified that the change has official been made through the coaches involved and Athletic Director.

QUITTING A TEAM

1. When a player decides to quit a team, every effort should be made by the coach to prevent any harassment by players or coaches.
2. Coaches should take the following steps:
 - a. Discuss reasons for wanting to quit.
 - b. Collect all equipment.
 - c. Inform the Athletic Director.
 - d. Keep the student on the roll until the change has become official.
3. Athletes who quit the team will not be allowed to go to another team until the first team's season is completed.

**** An athlete will have one week to finalize his or her decision to quit. During that time frame all workouts missed will be made up and additional work may be added. All work will be made up before the athlete will be eligible to participate in a game or contest.**

VIOLATIONS

Violations can be designated as “MINOR” or “MAJOR”.

Minor violations are generally thought of as mistakes made from time to time. While these mistakes may not pose a problem if they are isolated cases, it is the concern of the Athletic Department that these violations or infractions do not repeat themselves. Examples of “MINOR” violations include, but are not limited to: Unexcused tardies, failure to dress out, failure to dress appropriately, horse-play in the dressing room, loss of equipment, failure to demonstrate a good attitude or sportsmanship.

Major violations demonstrate a problem which needs to be addressed by the Athletic Department immediately. Examples of “MAJOR” violations include, but are not limited to: conduct unbecoming of a student-athlete, unsafe behavior on the bus, vandalism, arrest, willful disobedience, showing disrespect to a person of authority, lying, using drugs or alcohol, cheating and stealing.

REMOVAL FROM ATHLETICS

It is the goal of the Kennedale Athletic Department to develop student-athletes who are willing to behave or conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. If an athlete exhibits a persistent behavior which is contrary to the overall well-being of the program he or she may be removed from the athletic program.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

The conduct of an athlete at Kennedale High School is closely observed in many areas of everyday life. It is important that actions at all times be above reproach. Therefore, some guidelines must be followed by all athletes in our program.

- a. **Conduct in competition:** The athlete must be gracious in defeat, modest in victory, and maintain complete control at all times.
- b. **Conduct at school:** The student-athlete should set examples for all students by following rules set forth by the administration and individual teachers.
- c. **Conduct on trips:** The athlete represents not only him/herself, but also the community, school, coaches, and parents. Therefore it is expected that the athlete will dress and behave in an acceptable manner.

PROHIBITED CONDUCT

Kennedale ISD students who participate in athletics are prohibited at all times from:

- Possessing, smoking, selling, or using tobacco products;
- Possessing or using drug paraphernalia;
- Possessing, selling, or delivering to another person look-alike drugs or items represented to be drugs or contraband of any kind;
- Possessing, selling, giving, delivering to another person, using, or being under the influence of marijuana, alcohol, a controlled substance, or any dangerous drug;
- Engaging in conduct that contains the elements of an offense relating to glue, aerosol paint, or volatile, mood-altering chemicals;
- Engaging in serious misbehavior, as that term is defined in the Kennedale ISD Student Handbook;

- Attending any event at which underage drinking or smoking is occurring (students will be allowed a slight concession for an amount of time long enough to determine that a violation is occurring and to leave the premises);
- Attending or being at a place where illegal drugs are being used (students will be allowed a slight concession for an amount of time long enough to determine that a violation is occurring and to leave the premises);
- Riding in a vehicle containing alcohol unless a parent, guardian, or other responsible adult is present and aware of the presence of the alcohol;
- Stealing;
- Conduct that causes injury or harm to persons or property;
- Using profanity, lewd or vulgar language, or obscene gestures;
- Fighting;
- Any conduct resulting in arrest and/ or citations from law enforcement officers; (Traffic violations will be reviewed by the appropriate coach or administrator to if a Prohibited Conduct Violation has occurred.)
- Inappropriate touching including “making out” in public places, sexual gestures, or exposing parts of the body that are ordinarily covered up in public;
- Hazing;
- Inappropriate behavior in public places;
- Being associated or affiliated with any gang;
- Possessing or threatening to use a firearm or any object determined as being a weapon, in a manner that is prohibited by law;
- Sexual harassment.

The Athletic Director will have the authority and final say in any matter concerning an athlete removed from athletics or suspended from competition.

PROCEDURES

The coach will determine whether a violation of the Athletic Handbook has occurred. Upon determination of an Athletic Handbook violation, the following individuals will be notified:

- The student and the student’s parent(s) or guardian(s); and/or
- The appropriate school official or counselor to provide support and guidance in dealing with issues associated with alcohol, drugs, mood-altering chemicals, and other prohibited activities.

Nothing in this Athletic Handbook limits the authority of a coach to impose reasonable sanctions, including extra workouts, for student-athletes who breach team rules or conduct expectations but do not engage in prohibited conduct.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Coaches will review all the facts and circumstances surrounding a particular violation and impose appropriate disciplinary action. Coaches will strive for consistency in meting out punishment for Athletic Handbook violations, but will also exercise sound professional discretion. Violation of any of the aforementioned rules by a student-athlete participating in any sport will be subject to the following disciplinary action:

1. General Misconduct Offenses not requiring removal from the regular education program; Athletic Handbook Violations; Team Conduct and Rules Violations.

- **The coach has the authority to impose reasonable sanctions, including extra workouts or removal from position of authority within that team, for student-athletes who breach team conduct expectations but do not engage in prohibited conduct.**

Sanctions may increase with each offense and can lead up to a student being removed or dismissed from that team for up to one calendar year for persistently failing to abide by team conduct expectations.

Students placed in In-School Suspension (ISS) for general misconduct violations will be eligible to practice after school during the term of their placement. (Make-up running or conditioning will be required for the practice time missed.) Student-athletes are ineligible to participate in an athletic contest during the term of their placement. Student-athletes are eligible to resume participation in an athletic contest at 3:00 p.m. or at the end of the school day on the final day of the student-athletes' In-School Suspension (ISS) Placement.

2. Prohibited Conduct: Suspension from all athletic contests for the following time periods: (The athlete will be required to attend and actively participate in all practices. Any practices missed will be made up before an athlete may participate in an athletic contest.)

1st Offense – 14 days from the date it was determined that an Athletic Handbook Violation occurred.

2nd Offense – 30 days from the date it was determined that an Athletic Handbook Violation occurred.

3rd Offense – One calendar year from the date it was determined that an Athletic Handbook Violation occurred.

If an athlete commits a Prohibited Conduct Violation and their sport is not in season the following procedure will be in effect:

- The athlete will be suspended for 14 days when their season does begin if it is their 1st offense, 30 days if it is their 2nd offense, and one calendar year if it is their 3rd offense. The athlete will also have extra work for the prescribed amount of days depending on the level of the offense. If the extra work has been completed then the days of suspension would be in effect only.

Student-athletes placed in AEP (Alternative Education Program) or Expelled from the Regular Education Program shall be suspended from all activities for the following time periods:

1st Placement – Suspended from all athletic activities during the placement period and for 14 days upon the date the student-athlete returns to his or her regular campus. *
(The student-athlete may practice, but may not participate in a contest.)

2nd Placement – Suspended from all athletic activities during the placement period and for 30 days upon the date the student-athlete returns to his or her regular campus.*
(The student-athlete may practice, but may not participate in a contest.)

3rd and Subsequent Placements – Suspended from all activities during the placement period and for one calendar year upon the date the student-athlete returns to his or her regular campus. *

* Returning student-athletes and their parents will be required to meet with all coaches upon their return to the regular campus.

Guidelines will be established to determine what plan of action the athlete must complete before being allowed to participate with the team. The athlete will not be allowed to return to active participation in a contest until all guidelines have been met for that team.

ASTHMA MEDICATION

A new law allows student-athletes with severe asthma to possess and self-administer prescription asthma medication while on school property or at a school sponsored event if:

- The prescription medication has been prescribed for that student as indicated by the prescription label;
- The self-administration is done in accordance with the prescription or written instructions from the student's physician; and
- A parent of the student has provided to the school:
 - a. a signed, written authorization allowing the student to self-administer;
 - b. a written statement from the student's physician indicating that the student is capable of self-administering, the name and purpose of the medicine, the prescribed dosage, the times at which or circumstances under which the medicine may be administered, and the period for which the medicine is prescribed; and
 - c. an original container holding the medication is evident.

DUAL PARTICIPATION

All athletes participating in KISD Athletics make a commitment to the team, their teammates and their school. Each program demands the dedication of time and energy of the athlete. Part of this commitment is to be a student first and strive for academic excellence. Another integral part of that commitment is to place the KISD Athletic team above participation in any non-school sanctioned activity and attend all practices and games scheduled by KISD coaches.

If an athlete chooses to miss a KISD Athletic practice because of participation in an activity not under the auspices of KISD, the student-athlete will be suspended for one game. On the second offense, if the athlete chooses the outside activity over a KISD sport, then he/she will be removed from the team and not be allowed to be re-instated during that season of that particular sport.

In the event a student-athlete misses a KISD Athletic contest to participate in an activity not under the direction of KISD, the student-athlete will be released from the team immediately and will not be allowed to be re-instated. Furthermore, the student-athlete will not receive any accolades, awards, or benefits that other team members may receive or enjoy. If a second offense occurs, the student-athlete will be suspended from any athletic participation for the remainder of the school year. The student-athlete may become eligible during the next school year after a meeting with the athlete, parent and coach.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

It will be required that all athletes receive a physical examination each year that he/she participates. Previously, the UIL had a minimum requirement of a physical examination form to be completed prior to junior high athletic participation and again prior to first and third years of high school athletic participation. The KISD believes it is in the best interest of all student-athletes to be examined every year prior to participation.

PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIPS

Both parenting and coaching are very difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding between coaches and parents, both are better to accept the actions of the other and provide a more positive experience for everyone. Parents have the right to know, and understand, the expectations placed on them and their children. Coaches have the right to know that if parents have a concern, they will discuss it with the coach at the appropriate time and place.

Communication parents should expect from their child's coach:

- 1) Coach's philosophy
- 2) Expectations the coach has for your son or daughter, as well as other players on the team.
- 3) Locations and times of practices and contests.
- 4) Team requirements, i.e., fees, special equipment needed, school & team rules, off-season expectations.
- 5) Procedures that will be followed if your child becomes injured during participation.

Communication coaches expect from parents:

- 1) Concerns regarding their son and daughter expressed directly to the coach at the appropriate time and place.
- 2) Specific concerns in regard to the coach's philosophy and/or expectations.
- 3) Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.

As your child becomes involved in interscholastic athletics, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It's important to understand there may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. These are the times discussion with the coach is encouraged.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with a coach:

- 1) The mental and physical treatment of your child.
- 2) What your child needs to do to improve.
- 3) Concerns about your child's behavior.

It is very difficult to accept your child is not playing as much as you may hope. He or she may not be playing the position you wanted them to play, either. Coaches make decisions based on what they believe is in the best interests of all students participating. As you can see from the list above, certain things can be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those listed next, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues NOT appropriate for discussion with you child's coach:

- 1) How much playing time each athlete receives.
- 2) Team Strategy.
- 3) Play calling.
- 4) Any situation that deals with other student-athletes.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and parent. These are not discouraged, as it is important for each party to have a clear understanding of the others' position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure is suggested to help promote a resolution to the issue.

If a parent has a concern to discuss with the coach, the following procedure should be followed:

- 1) Call the coach to set up an appointment.
- 2) If the coach cannot be reached, call the athletic director or girl's coordinator and ask him or her to set up a meeting with the coach for you.
- 3) Think about what you expect to accomplish as a result of the meeting.

4) Stick to discussing the facts, as you understand them.

5) Do not confront the coach before, during or after a practice or contest. These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution of the situation, but often escalate it.

What should a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

1) Call the athletic director to set up a meeting with the athletic director, coach, and parent present.

2) At this meeting, an appropriate next step can be determined, if necessary.

Student's involvement in extracurricular activities has been proven to increase their chances of success later in life. We hope this information helps make that experience more enjoyable for everyone involved.

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 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 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 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.

THE DEFINITION OF SPORTSMANSHIP

Sportsmanship is a character displayed through athletic competition. People of character live by the “Six Pillars of Character,” universal values that can be used to define a good person: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. This code applies to the parents of all student-athletes involved in interscholastic sports.

TRUSTWORTHINESS

Always pursue victory with honor

-Demonstrate and demand scrupulous integrity – Observe and enforce the spirit and letter of rules – Don’t compromise education and character-development goals – Don’t engage in or tolerate dishonesty, cheating or dishonorable conduct.

RESPECT

Treat the traditions of the sport and other participants with respect – Don’t engage in or tolerate disrespectful conduct including verbal abuse of opponents and officials, profane or belligerent “trash talking,” taunting and unseemly celebrations – Win with grace and lose with dignity.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Be a positive role model and require the same of your student-athletes – Further the mental, social and moral development of athletes and teach life skills that enhance personal success and social responsibility.

FAIRNESS

Adhere to high standards of fair play – Never take unfair advantage – Be open-minded.

CARING

Assure that the academic, emotional, physical and moral well-being of athletes is always placed above desires and pressure to win.

CITIZENSHIP

Promote sportsmanship by honoring the rules and goals of the sport – Establish codes of conduct for coaches, athletes, parents and spectators – Safeguard the health of athletes and the integrity of the sport prohibiting the use of alcohol and tobacco – Demand compliance with all laws and regulations, including those relating to gambling and the use of drugs.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS OF SPECTATORS

Remember that you are at the contest to support and cheer for your team, and to enjoy the skill and competition-not to intimidate or ridicule the other team or its fans.

Remember that school athletics are a learning experience for students and that mistakes are sometimes made. Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes, and as people, just as you would praise a student working in the classroom.

A ticket is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious.

Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.

Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups.

Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Understand that they are doing their best to help promote the student-athlete, and admire their willingness to participate in full view of the public.

Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.

Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before, during, and after the game or near the site of the event (i.e. tailgating)

Use only cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.

Be a positive role model at events through your own actions and by censuring those around you whose behavior is unbecoming.

Game officials can ask that school administrators have unruly fans removed from a contest facility.

There is no such thing as a “right” to attend interscholastic athletics. Interscholastic athletics are considered a “privilege” and the spectator who avails themselves of it is expected to conduct himself or herself accordingly.

Parents and spectators should be aware that the school can (and will) remove them from the premises due to any type of disruptive behavior. (Disruptive behavior can be defined as but not limited to foul or abusive language, berating of officials, taunting of opposing fans, players or coaches, lack of cooperation with school officials, not remaining in the bleachers, refusing to leave a restricted area, bringing food and drink into the gym, etc.) Spectators may be removed from a KISD event for violation of these rules or any other school rules. Spectators removed from two contests will be prohibited from attending KISD contests for one year from the second incident. Severe violations may result in an immediate ban from future events.

Keep in mind that you are a guest of the school, and that while winning is certainly an admirable goal; it is hollow if it comes at the expense of morals, ethics, and just plain common sense.

The school is responsible for the behavior of their spectators. The school district can be and will be punished for actions of patrons in violation of UIL standards and rules.

PREGNANT STUDENTS

Under Title IX section 20 U.S.C. 1681: 34cfr 106.40 (b), the district shall not discriminate against any student or exclude any student from its educational program if she should become pregnant. The district will abide by the following guideline if a student-athlete should become pregnant:

1. Once a student-athlete finds out she is pregnant, she must have a written release from her doctor stating that she is able to participate in an athletic program. The student-athlete must provide medical consent from a physician at each subsequent visit to the physician.

WEATHER AND RELATED CONDITIONS

An educated and informed decision will be made in determining if a practice or a contest can be held when there is a question concerning the weather. No athlete will be put at risk in order to have a practice or play a contest.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS

The District shall excuse student-athletes from attending school and extracurricular activities for the purpose of observing religious holy days when it is a tenet of their faith that they must be absent from school during such time and if, before the absence, the parent, guardian, or person having custody or control of the student submits a written request for the excused absence. The District shall excuse the student-athlete for days on which religious holy days are observed and for days on which the student-athlete must travel to and from the site where the holy days will be observed. Excused days for travel shall be limited to not more than one day for travel to and one day of travel from the site where the student-athlete will observe the holy days. Student-athletes excused under this provision shall be allowed a reasonable time to make up the contest(s) or practice(s) missed during the absence. The absence will count as an excused absence with a reasonable amount of time given to make up for any missed practices or contests.

ATHLETIC INJURIES

All athletes will report to the Athletic Trainer or designee regarding any injury, rehabilitation, preventative maintenance, therapy, etc. The person in charge will make a sound professional decision regarding the athlete's well-being and determine if the athlete can participate in a contest or practice. This person will keep the Head Coach informed of all injuries on a daily basis. The Athletic Trainer will provide injury prevention and rehabilitation. All athletes will comply with the decision of the trainer or designee with the decision regarding their status and availability for contests and practices. No athlete should go the doctor before consulting with the trainer or designee.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

A condition for participating in the Kennedale ISD Athletic Program is to sign an acknowledgment that the student-athlete has read and understands the Athletic Handbook. The student's parent(s) or guardian(s) must also sign an acknowledgment. The acknowledgment states that the signing party understands the consequences for engaging in prohibited conduct.

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN

DATE _____

GRADE _____

I have read the Kennedale ISD Athletic Handbook and agree to these rules as a condition for my voluntary participation in Kennedale ISD Athletics. I understand that failure to do so will result in disciplinary measures related to my athletic participation.

Students Name _____

Students Signature _____

I have read the Kennedale ISD Athletic Handbook and understand the requirements for my child's voluntary participation in Kennedale ISD Athletics. I understand the consequences that my child will face if he or she fails to adhere to these rules and agree to such terms. I am aware of the sections dealing with Parent/Coach Relationships, Pursuing Victory with Honor, Definition of Sportsmanship, and Behavior Expectations of Spectators. I agree to abide by the conditions stated therein. I agree to allow my son(s) or daughter(s) name to be printed in the newspaper so they may be recognized for their accomplishments.

Parent(s) or Guardian(s) Name _____

Parent(s) or Guardian(s) Signature _____

Revised and approved on 04/20/04

