

Covington ISD

Athletic Program Code of Conduct and General Guideline for Student Athletes

General Philosophy: Participation in the athletic program by students at Covington ISD is a privilege that must be earned through proper conduct exhibited in all areas of a student's life. In order to insure this conduct, student athletes are required to adhere to the following Code of Conduct and General Guidelines for student athletes. The purpose of these guidelines are to aid the students in making wise decisions that lead to successful, healthy, happy and prosperous lifestyles in the present and future. As recognized representatives of Covington ISD, athletes are expected to exhibit appropriate behavior during the athletic season and the off season, in uniform and out of uniform, on campus and off campus. Student athletes who fail to abide by the Code of Conduct will be subject to disciplinary action. Habitual or extreme cases of misconduct will result in dismissal from the athletic program.

1. **Academics**-The primary goal of Covington ISD is the academic education of all students. Academic success is our highest priority. Athletes must be successful in the classroom to be able to participate in any school sponsored extra-curricular activity. By state law, students who are failing any class at the end of a grading period become ineligible from participating in an athletic contest for a specific period of 3 to 6 weeks. If a student does become ineligible, he or she is still required to attend all practice sessions as if they were eligible.
2. **School Attendance**-Attending school on a regular and consistent basis is imperative for student success. State law requires every student to be in attendance in every class for a minimum of 90% of the class periods in order to pass the course. Students should make every effort to be at school as many days as possible. Students should learn to distinguish between “feeling bad” and being truly sick or ill. Students who are too ill to attend school are probably too ill to attend athletic workouts or games as well. The coaches and administration reserve the right to limit participation of athletes in cases of nonattendance during the regular school day.
3. **Conduct**-Athletes are expected to be leaders in the school and community. At no time should an athlete conduct himself in such a way that it would bring embarrassment to his or her own self, family, coach, teachers or teammates. Students that participate in athletics are subject to rules and disciplinary procedures that may differ from other students. Misconduct will result in disciplinary action. Misconduct that is extreme and/or habitual will result in removal from the athletic program. By law, a student athlete that is indicted for a crime becomes ineligible from athletic participation until the issue is settled by a court of law.
4. **Illegal Substance Policy**-The use of illegal substances will not be tolerated. The use of any illegal substance is illegal on school property and on any school sponsored activity or trip. The use of these substances can become habit forming and addictive. Abuse of

these substances is unhealthy and expensive. In extreme cases of abuse and/or long term use it can lead to health problems, family problems and possibly social problems. These substances can also cause severe and sometimes life threatening injuries and/or premature death due to accidents that can occur while under their influence. When a violation of this policy is reported to a coach and/or administrator, a thorough inquiry into the reported infraction will be conducted and disciplinary action will be imposed only after there is proof and/or admission that an infraction did in fact occur. **In order to help student athletes avoid using these dangerous substances, the consequences listed under major disciplinary consequences will be used for infractions that occur outside of a parent's or legal guardian's direct supervision and/or outside the student's personal residence.**

5. **Drug Policy** - Covington ISD addresses the issue of drug abuse in its FNF Local Board Policy. The athletic department will follow the guidelines laid out in that policy.
6. **Missing Games, Workouts and Tardiness**-An athlete who misses a game or workout for any reason will be expected to perform physical conditioning activities to make up for the missed physical conditioning activities that takes place during a regular workout or contest. This conditioning is not a punishment. It is considered to be make-up work. The same policy is in place in the academic classroom; missed assignments must be made up. An unexcused absence will result in a more severe conditioning activity. Except in extreme circumstances, any absence that is not reported prior to missing a game or practice is unexcused. It is the responsibility of the student athlete to personally communicate to the coach ahead of time if a game or practice is going to be missed. The supervising coach will determine whether or not an absence is excused or unexcused and will administer and monitor the conditioning activity. The running must be done in consecutive days as quickly as possible. This is left up to the discretion of the supervising coach. Athletes who miss practice for any reason can expect limited or no playing time in the next scheduled athletic event at the discretion of the supervising coach. Unexcused absences that occur repeatedly during a season are sufficient cause for a permanent dismissal from the athletic team at the discretion of the supervising coach after a meeting with the athlete, coach and athletic director. Disciplinary action will also result from frequent tardiness, especially if it becomes habitual. A coach may, at his or her discretion, delay the running in case of illness. The intention of this rule is not to make recovery difficult for those students with serious health problems. A student who has a serious illness (mono, hepatitis, etc.), injury, or surgery causing numerous consecutive absences from workouts and games (mandated by doctor's orders) may be excused from the make-up work at the discretion of the supervising coach. The supervising coach may administer various forms of physical conditioning activities.
7. **Equipment**-The athlete is responsible for all equipment and clothing that is issued to them by the athletic department. The athlete is responsible for the replacement cost of any items lost, stolen or ruined through misuse or abuse. The athlete will not be allowed to participate in athletics with an outstanding debt for clothes or equipment. Workout and game clothes will **not** be taken home. The school will be responsible for washing and maintaining clothes and equipment. Each athlete is required to keep all equipment

locked up and secure at all times except when in use. **Athletes are required to work out and play in school issued clothing and equipment, unless specific permission is given by a coach.**

8. **Team Travel Arrangements**-Athletes are required to travel both to and from athletic contests in school transportation. **Parents may request to have a student return home with them following a contest provided that the parents pick up the student in person and the student is not returning to Covington.** If the team is eating at a different location than the contest, the athletes are required to ride with the team to eat and then they can be released to the parents or legal guardian. A student may not be released to anyone other than the parents or legal guardian. In extenuating circumstances, with prior written approval or verbal permission from parent, a student may be released to another adult.
9. **Travel Attire**-Athletes are expected to dress in good taste while representing the school. Some examples of items that are inappropriate for travel include tank tops, any kind of clothing or cap that advertises an alcohol or tobacco product, T-shirts that are sexually suggestive or that represent deviant behavior, etc. Travel attire must follow Covington ISD Dress Code. The supervising coach may request that a particular type of attire be worn for special occasions (playoffs, tournaments, etc.) and the supervising coach will always make the final decision on what attire is deemed appropriate.
10. **Traveling on School Transportation**-Since many of our trips are on school nights, an atmosphere for studying should be maintained for those who need it. Electronic devices will be allowed only if used with earphones. All riders will clean buses and travel vehicles after each trip.
11. **Conflicts with Other School Activities**-Conflicts with other school sponsored activities are unavoidable in a small school. The coaches and sponsors of other school activities will work together to come up with a plan so both programs can be successful. Missing a workout or game will be excused as long as the other activity is school sponsored. Missing a practice or game because of another school sponsored activity is totally different than other absences due to personal issues and will be handled on an individual basis by the Athletic Director and supervising coach.
12. **Quitting a Sport**- Athletes in grades 6-10 will have two weeks after the first organized practice to choose not to participate in that sport with no consequences. Athletes in grades 11-12 will have one week after the first organized practice to choose not to participate in that sport with no consequences. If a student/athlete quits a sport during a season; they will be given a 48 hour grace period to think over their decision. If they choose to return to the sport during the grace period, make up conditioning will need to be done for any practices or games missed. If they choose not to return during the grace period, the athlete will be required to run 36 miles in 9 school days before playing another sport. If two sports are running concurrently, the student/athlete must complete half of the running before he/she can participate in a contest in the second sport. If

quitting becomes habitual, the athlete may be removed from athletics at the discretion of the athletic director.

13. **Additional Rules**-Each coach for the athletic period has the prerogative to establish additional rules and discipline procedures pertaining to the activity supervised. These rules may include attendance and participation at practices, dress codes and other general conduct for practices, contests, trips, etc.

Major Disciplinary Consequences

1st offense-The athlete must run 36 miles in 9 school days under the supervision of the head coach of the sport that is in season. Minimum amount of miles per day is 4.

2nd offense-The athlete must run 54 miles in 9 school days under the supervision of the head coach of the sport that is in season. Minimum amount of miles per day is 6.

3rd offense- The athlete will be removed from the program for the remainder of the school year. The athlete must run 72 miles in 9 school days under the supervision of a coach before being reinstated into the athletic program. Minimum amount of miles is 8.

4th offense- The student may be removed from the athletic program for the rest of their high school career at the discretion of the athletic director/school administration. If allowed to remain in the athletic program, the student will be required to run 90 miles in 9 school days under the supervision of a coach to participate in athletics. Minimum amount of miles a day is 10.

The running must be started within one week of the meeting with the Athletic Director and Coach. The athlete must complete at least the minimum miles per day. At the discretion of the supervising coach more miles can be run in one day. If the student misses a day of running and it is unexcused, the student must start over. The athlete will be suspended from all athletic events until half of the required miles are completed. If a season ends before the suspension and running has been completed, the suspension will be extended into the next sport until the running has been completed. A suspension could possibly overlap into the next school year's activities.

An athlete's record starts new when moving from Junior High to High School.

*****Anything not covered in this handbook will be dealt with according to the Covington ISD Student Code of Conduct Handbook.**

Covington ISD

The Athlete's Commitment

Individual and team success in athletics result from COMMITMENT. The extent to which I am able to make such commitments reflects my maturity as well as my dedication to my family, friends, school, community and team. As an athlete representing Covington ISD, I commit myself to follow the rules and regulations set forth in the Athletic Program Code of Conduct and General Guidelines for Student Athletes.

I have read and discussed with my parents or guardians these athletic expectations and we understand the penalties that will be enforced if and when an infraction does occur. Our signatures below reflect our mutual acknowledgments of these standards and my personal commitment to adhere and to live by them.

I have also received information from the University Interscholastic League on the Parent Information Manual and the role of the U.I.L. in the public schools of Texas. I understand that any questions I may have about rules and regulations of the U.I.L. can be found in the Parent Information Manual located at

http://www.uil texas.org/files/athletics/manuals/Parent_Info_Manual_15-16.pdf

Print Athlete Name

Athlete Signature

Date

Print Parent Name

Parent Signature

Date

