

Taylor
Independent School
District

DUCKS

Athletic Handbook

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ATHLETICS MISSION STATEMENT.....	3
INTRODUCTION.....	4
EXPLANATION OF ATHLETICS.....	5
TAYLOR ATHLETICS.....	6
ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM.....	6
REQUIREMENTS TO PARTICIPATE.....	7
Physical Examination	
Athletic Department Forms Packet	
Acknowledgement of TISD Athletic Handbook	
Academic Eligibility	
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES.....	8-11
Coaches' Rule	
Discipline Techniques	
"Hazing"	
Academics	
Attendance	
Squad Selection	
Cutting	
Injury or Illness	
Respect for Others	
Promptness	
Disciplinary Removal	
Dress and Appearance	
Quitting	
Conflict in Activities	
Travel	
Vacations	
Club Sports	
Tobacco-Alcohol Beverages-Use of Illegal Drugs	
Theft	
Criminal Activity	
INSURANCE.....	12
AWARD POLICIES.....	13
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK ACKNOLWEDGEMENT.....	14

Taylor Independent School District Athletic Mission Statement

The Taylor I.S.D. Athletic Handbook contains a general statement of the administrative regulations governing the overall athletic program.

Provisions of this Athletic Handbook may be expanded, modified, or revoked only by actions of the Principal, Superintendent, or the Board of Education. If any of the provisions of this Athletic Handbook conflict with federal or state laws, and regulations, or Board policy, those provisions are superseded by applicable law or Board policy. The provisions of this Athletic Handbook are severable, and the invalidity, illegality or unenforceability of any provision will not affect the validity, legality, or enforceability of the other provisions.

ATHLETICS

The Taylor Independent School District believes that the district athletic program should be an integral part of the total education process.

The mission of the T.I.S.D. Office of Athletics is to ensure and enhance the quality of life for the youth by providing competitive activities. The matching of one's skills, knowledge, and talent against friendly opponents is a means of learning one's own strengths and weaknesses.

Good contest, properly supervised, give youthful competitors the opportunity to gain self-confidence, improve skills, exhibit good sportsmanship, ethical behavior and integrity. Sports programs help the participant develop physically, morally, and mentally.

Athletic offerings within the district are competitive and diversified, thereby allowing students the opportunity to realize their full potential relative to growth and development. All programs are designed not only to teach athletic skills, but also to instill good character and teach sound values.

It is felt that the success of the athletic program sets the tone for the entire school year. It builds a positive self image for the individual athlete, the team, the school, the community, and importantly, for Taylor I.S.D.

It is our final goal that sports activities will produce young men and women who will be able to enter the community and become constructive, contributing members of society; citizens that will leave their mark on this world by making it a better place for the future generations.

Director of Athletics

EXPLANATION OF ATHLETICS

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefits to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of the child's program.

Communication you should expect from your child's coach:

1. Philosophy of the coach
2. Locations and times of practices and contests
3. Team requirements, e.g., practices, special equipment, out-of-season conditioning

Communication coaches expect from parents:

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance

As your children become involved in the programs at Taylor, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged. Examples of these situations include the treatment of your child, ways to help your child improve, concerns about your child's attitude, or academic support.

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much, when, or where you may desire. It will be the coach's discretion to make all decisions about playing time or position for individual student-athletes, regardless of the score of the game or the personal feelings of the student-athlete's parents.

Coaches are professionals. They make judgments based on what they believe to be the best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things should be left to the discretion of the coach. **Examples include team strategy, other student-athletes, playing time, etc.**

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. **There will not be a conference regarding playing time without the student-athlete and coach present.** When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote resolution:

1. Call the coach to set up an appointment.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Office. A meeting will be set up for you.
3. **Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.**

If the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution, the next step is to set up an appointment with the Athletic Director.

Since research indicates that a student involved in extracurricular activities has greater success during childhood, these athletic programs have been established. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school.

TAYLOR ATHLETICS

According to University Interscholastic League rules, being in athletics is a privilege and not a right. Only those students who abide by school and athletic policies will be allowed to represent Taylor I.S.D.

When young men and women sign up for athletics and become a member of a team, they make a commitment. They are obligated to follow the rules and regulations of the program. They are not forced to participate. It is voluntary; therefore, they are expected to follow rules of order.

Parents should strive to help their son or daughter to achieve success in athletics. Success is defined as participating at 100% of the individual's ability. We can never expect athletes to do more than they are capable; however, we do want them to obtain their fullest potential. Supportive parents can instill this desire in student athletes long after their playing days are over by seeing that the student is on time, attends practices and games, and follows the rules and regulations.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM

The administration of the Athletic Program should provide every boy and girl the opportunity to participate in any sport. Each head coach is responsible for making sure that all students are knowledgeable of tryout procedures and individual requirements for being in all sports. No student in any grade should be deprived of the opportunity to try out or participate in any sport **if** he/she has met the head coach's off-season and previous participation requirements.

Note: In team sports such as football, volleyball, basketball, softball or baseball, all athletes must complete the previous semester strength and conditioning programs or meet the head coach's requirements prior to participation.

Note: Participants in individual sports such, as Tennis, Cross-country, Track, Power Lifting, and Golf must meet the head coach's off-season and previous participation requirements.

Participants who have quit or dropped out of the athletic program will not be allowed to come back out their senior year. The only way a senior will be allowed to enter the programs is if he/she transfers from another school.

The general administration of the Athletic Program is the direct responsibility of the Athletic Director. This includes the arrangement of all schedules, time and place of game locations, selection of officials, and the general management of all matters pertaining to the Athletic Program. In carrying out this program, each head coach in the department shall attend to details of their respective sports.

REQUIREMENTS TO PARTICIPATE

The following items must be turned in to the Athletic Department before participating in any practice or game in any extracurricular activity.

A. Physical Examination/Medical History

A physical examination is required every other year for all school students beginning in the 7th grade. Grades 7, 9, and 11 are required to take a physical examination prior to participation. A medical history form must be completed each year prior to participation. If a student was removed from participation by a doctor's order, the student must receive a release from the doctor prior to participation. If a student sustained a serious injury, which required surgery or removal from participation, the student will need to take physical examination prior to participation. **If a student checked "yes" on certain questions on the "Medical History" form a physical examination may be required.** The physical examination forms is available from the coaches or the Athletic Trainer. Use only the approved UIL form to record physical examinations. Club or organization forms will not be accepted.

B. Athletic Department Forms Packet

This packet includes (1) UIL Acknowledgement of Rules, (2) personal student and parent information, (3) Parent/Student Notification Agreement Form (Steroid Use and Random Testing), (4) Be Alert (Random Anabolic Steroid Testing), (5) Emergency Form. **The packet should be filled out completely! Do not leave any requested information blank.**

C. Acknowledgement of T.I.S.D. Athletic Handbook/Athletic Policies

The student-athlete and the parent/guardian should sign the Handbook Acknowledgement card. It should then be returned to the Athletic Department. This shows receipt of the Athletic Handbook and/or acknowledges that the student-athlete and parent/guardian will comply with the rules and policies in the Athletic Handbook.

D. Academic Eligibility

A student in grades 9 – 12 may participate in extracurricular activities on or off campus at the beginning of the school year only if the student has earned the cumulative number in state-approved courses:

- a.) Beginning the ninth grade year- must have been promoted from the eighth to the ninth;
- b.) Beginning the tenth grade year- must have at least 5 credits towards graduation;
- c.) Beginning the eleventh grade year- must have at least 10 credits toward graduation or during the preceding 12 months, he/she must have earned 5 credits;
- d.) Beginning the twelfth grade year- must have 15 credits toward graduation or during the preceding 12 months, he/she have earned 5 credits.

A student participating in U.I.L. activities will be suspended from participation in games after a grading period in which the student received a grade lower than a 70 on a scale of 100 in any academic class (other than an identified honors or advanced class). This suspension continues for three weeks. The grades will be reviewed at the end of each three-week period; the suspension will be removed if the student is passing all classes with a grade equal to or greater than 70.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES

1. Coaches' Rule

Coaches may establish additional rules and regulation with the approval of the Athletic Director for their respective sports. The rules pertaining to a particular sport must be explained, in writing, by the coach at the start of the season. The coach shall administer penalties for violation of team rules. Copies of all team rules are on file in the Athletic Office.

2. Discipline Techniques

Discipline yourself, so others won't have to!!!

Each situation may require a different type of discipline. Whatever type of discipline is required, the purpose is to help athletes improve themselves, and to become better persons. Failure to accept this on the part of the athlete or parent/guardian may result in dismissal from the team and/or athletic program. The different discipline techniques listed below may be used alone or in combination with Student Code of Conduct and non-Student Code of Conduct violations. The listing is not intended to be a list of progressive sanctions or the only methods used.

- *Oral Corrections
- *Counseling by coaches
- *Home-visits conference with Athletic Director
- *Behavioral contracts
- *Withdraw of privileges, such as participation
- *Techniques or penalties identified by individual coach of sport
- *Dismissal from team or program

3. HAZING

“Hazing” is against the law and will not be tolerated in the Athletic Department. “Hazing” means any intentional, knowing, or reckless occurring on or off school property directed against a student, by one person alone, or acting with others, that endangers the mental or physical health or the safety of a student for the purpose of pledging being initiated into, affiliated with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are to include other students. Under Education Code 37.152 a person commits an offense if the person commits any of the following:

- (a) Engages in hazing.
- (b) Solicits, encourages, directs, aids, attempts to aid in engaging in hazing.
- (c) Recklessly permits hazing to occur.
- (d) Has firsthand knowledge of the planning of a specific hazing incident involving a student, or first-hand knowledge that a specific hazing incident has occurred, and knowingly fails to report that knowledge in writing to the Principal, Athletic Director, or designee.

4. Academics

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

5. Attendance

Be in class. Be on time. If you must miss an athletic period or practice, be sure that it can't be avoided. If you must be absent, call and talk to one of the coaches or the front office before the athletic period or practice. You will be required to make up work missed. Repeated absences may result in dismissal from the team.

6. Squad Selection

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

7. Cutting

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

- A. Extent of tryout period
- B. Criteria used to select the team
- C. Number to be selected
- D. Practice commitment if they make the team
- E. Game commitments

8. Injury or Illness

Coaches will either treat you or refer you to a physician. If you must leave school because of illness, contact or come by the Athletic Office or coaches' office. If you are ill or injured, we don't expect you to work out, but if you are at school, we expect you to wear the uniform of the day and accompany your group or team unless given special permission by your head coach.

9. Respect for Others

Coaches should receive "Yes Sir / Ma'am", "No Sir / No Ma'am" responses from players when talking to them. Players in return will be treated with respect by their coaches. Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, officials, spectators, and support groups. Treat others, as you would want to be treated.

10. Promptness

Always be on time. On trips, the bus will not wait. After the final bell rings, you do not have time to waste; go directly to your sport. Tardiness will result in disciplinary action.

11. Disciplinary Removal

If it becomes necessary to consider removing a student from a team or the athletic program, the coach of that team will notify the Athletic Director. The student will have an opportunity to confer with the coach and the Athletic Director. Parents will receive notification and be invited to attend the conference.

12. Dress and Appearance

Athletic participation is voluntary upon the part of the student, and by entering the program, the athlete agrees to abide by the spirit, rules, and regulations, which pertain to athletes. One of the most important rules is that athletes must maintain a neat appearance at all times. You should be very professional in uniform and out. Your appearance away from the field house or gym, especially at school, should reflect the same class and pride that you show in our program. Everyone will wear his/her uniform in the same manner. No one will be different. We will furnish your equipment, so do not bring your own. Men and women will wear attire requested by the head coach. To attain a team appearance and for safety reasons, hair should be worn neatly. Male athletes will be clean-shaven and neat. Both male and female athletes: no earrings, pigtailed, rat-tails, beads, Mohawks, or designs carved in hair, no unusual hair colors or styles, no unusual nail designs or lengths. Both male and female athletes will be neat and clean in appearance. No jewelry or head garments of any kind will be worn during practice or games. Athletes are public relations ambassadors for their school and as such serve as role models for other students.

Proper Dress For Men

1. When traveling to and from athletic contests, shirts should be tucked in at all times.
2. Never allow your pants to bag down at the waist.
3. Belts should be worn.
4. Unless approved by the coaches for outdoor activities, no headwear of any kind should be worn while participating in, or traveling to and from an athletic event.
5. Piercing are not to be worn by male athletes in athletic events/practice.
6. Tattoos are never to be visible and must be covered with tape.
7. Hair should be neat and uniform and should be a natural hair color and contain no beads or any other item that could distract from the team. Hair should not be worn in any way that will cause attention to and individual athlete, and distract from the team. If there is hair on most of the head and another part is very short or shaved, that is considered out of uniform.
8. Proper shoes should be worn. No flip-flops or house shoes will be allowed
9. Body piercing is never allowed on male athletes in the T.H. Johnson fieldhouse or athletic facility, i.e., gym.

Proper Dress For Women

If not dressed in your game uniform, where you have no jewelry, girls will wear the following attire:

1. Slacks or a skirt/dress, which measures no more than four inches above the back of the knee.
2. No shorts will be allowed.
3. Tops must be tucked in unless made to be worn otherwise.
4. No sleeveless or off-the-shoulder tops will be allowed.
5. Proper shoes should be worn. No flip-flops or house shoes will be allowed.
6. When not dressed in game attire, only one earring in each ear will be allowed.
7. Unless approved by the coaches for outdoor activities, no headwear of any kind should be worn while participating in or traveling to and from an athletic event. This may include any item placed in the hair which takes attention away from the team and places it on the individual.
8. All tattoos must be covered.

13. Quitting

An athlete who quits a sport after a trial period (usually after the first contest) will not be allowed to participate in another sport until the season of the sport in which the Athlete has quit, is completed. An exception to this rule would be if the head coaches of both sports agree that the student athlete would be a better match in the other sport. The Athletic Director may, at his discretion, make an exception to this rule when an event outside the control of the athlete or his/her family causes the athlete to drop a sport. A clear understanding of the events leading up to the sport being dropped and the consequences for dropping the sport will be reached by the Athletic Director and the athlete at the time the sport is dropped. Anyone walking off the field or gym floor during a practice or a game will be considered by the coach to have quit the team. Before the start of the next sport, the athlete will be required to run 3 miles for 5 consecutive days.

14. Conflict in Activities

An individual student who attempts to participate in several extracurricular activities will, undoubtedly, be in a position of conflict of obligations. The Athletic Department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences. In the area of extracurricular activities, the athletic department will attempt to schedule events in a manner to minimize conflicts. This would include being cautious about participation in too many activities where conflicts are bound to happen. It also means immediately notifying the faculty sponsors and coaches involved when a conflict does arise.

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

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

Once a decision has been made and the student has followed the decision, he/she will not be penalized in any way by either faculty sponsor or coach. If it becomes obvious that a student cannot fulfill the obligation of a school activity, he/she should withdraw from that activity in a timely fashion so as not to place an unreasonable burden on the team, coach, or sponsor.

15. Travel

All athletes represent the community, school, and coaches. Therefore, it is expected that all athletes will dress in an acceptable manner on trips and conduct themselves in a proper manner. **When missing classes because of an athletic event, it is the responsibility of the athlete to see his/her teacher the day before the missed classes.** All work shall be made up at the convenience of the teacher. All athletes making a school sponsored trip shall be required to ride in transportation provided by the school to and from the event. Students may return home with the parent or guardian when the parent or guardian presents a written request to the coach. On school athletic trips, students will only be released in person to their parent or guardian. If an athlete is injured in a contest away from home, the above policy may be altered to meet the circumstances.

16. Vacations

Vacations by athletic team members during a sport season are discouraged. While family values will always take precedence over program requirements, parents and athletes in conflict between vacations and program requirements may wish to reassess their commitment to being involved in athletics'. We urge parents not to plan their vacations during times when there will be a conflict.

In the event of an absence due to a vacation that is unavoidable, an athlete must:

- A. Contact the head coach prior to the vacation.
- B. Practice one day for each practice or contest day missed prior to resuming competition (contest day will count as a practice day).
- C. Be willing to assume the consequences related to their status on the squad as a starter, 2nd string, etc. for the time missed.

17. Club Sports

A club sport is a sports program outside the school that is not affiliated with U.I.L. athletics. We are very fortunate to live in a community where the high school can be the main focus. WE feel our athletes' obligations are to their school team first. We will not excuse our Athletes to miss a school contest or practice for a club event. If an athlete pursues club participation he/she must:

- A. Contact all head coaches of sports at the school in which he/she is participating.
- B. Be willing to assume the consequences related to their status on the squad as a starter, 2nd string, or even dismissal, for the time participating in club activities without approval of all head coaches involved at the school.

18. Tobacco- Alcoholic Beverages- Use of Illegal Drugs

There will be no use of tobacco products, drinking alcoholic beverages, or use of illegal drugs at any time (calendar year) for those students who desire to take part in the Taylor Athletic Program. The consequences for violation are a part of each sport's Discipline Policy.

19. Theft

Taking things that do not belong to you, especially taking from your teammates will not be tolerated. A player caught will be dismissed from the team. We ask that you do not bring valuables or large sums of money to the dressing room. **Lock your lockers at all times.**

20. Criminal Activity

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

INSURANCE

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

You may obtain a copy of the insurance claim form from the Athletic Trainer or the athletic office.

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

I. If the parent and/or guardian carry primary insurance on the student the following steps should be followed: (Initial injury must be reported and claim filed with the primary carrier. All qualifying injuries must follow the guidelines below.) The excess coverage is considered secondary coverage. All claims must be considered by the primary provider before a claim can be filed.

1. All injuries must be reported and documented by the coach of that sport.
2. Injury must have resulted during a sanctioned practice or competition under the supervision of a coach.
3. Parents and/or guardian must fill out a claim form within 90 days of injury. Claim form must be mailed with supporting documentation to the insurance company.
4. A copy of the claim form must be kept on file by the Athletic Trainer.
5. This is a secondary coverage. Please be aware that the "excess" coverage may not cover the entire remaining balance. Any balances due after the insurance companies have paid is the sole responsibility of the parent or guardian.

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

1. All injuries must be reported and documented by coach of that sport.
2. Injury must have resulted during a sanctioned practice or competition under the supervision of a coach.
3. Parents and/or guardian must fill out a claim form within 90 days of injury. Claim form must be mailed with supporting documentation to the insurance company.
4. A copy of the claim form must be kept on file by the Athletic Trainer.
5. Insurance company will become primary and pay on reasonable and customary charges (up to limits of policy) on any athletic related injury. Please be aware that any remaining balances due after the insurance has paid is the sole responsibility of the parent or guardian.

AWARD POLICIES

U.I.L. rules prohibit athletes from accepting anything of value other than as listed in these policies. All athletes must strictly adhere to all training, attendance, conduct, discipline, and appearance rules set forth by the coaches for the entire school year before being considered for an athletic award. All scholastic eligibility rules established by the School Board, the University Interscholastic League, and T.E.A. must be met. It must be clearly understood that the coach recommends an athlete for an award. Criteria for receiving awards are varied and established by each sport. Schools may give one major award jacket, not to exceed \$60.00 in value, to a student during high school enrollment at the same school for participation in one of the U.I.L. interschool competitions. One additional symbolic award, not to exceed \$10.00 in value, may be presented for participation in each U.I.L. activity. The \$10.00 award shall not be given to a student for an activity during the same year that the major award is given for that activity.

Taylor Independent School District Athletic Handbook & Policies

The Taylor Independent School District provides an athletic program for the benefit of the students in this school district. We believe that participation in a competitive athletic program can provide students an opportunity to learn responsibility, dedication, leadership, hard work, and respect for rules, respect for authority, and many other qualities. The rules are established to promote these qualities, and to help build and maintain a strong athletic program. A respected and competitive athletic program provides the best opportunity for our students. It is recognized that some of the expectations for athletes exceed the expectations for the general student body. Athletes are expected to follow the established rules. Violations of the rules will result in corrective and/or disciplinary action. The facts and circumstances will be taken into consideration when determining what actions will be taken. Students may be dismissed from the athletic program for violation of the rules.

1. If you are arrested or charged for possession of or under the influence of an illegal drug.
The consequences for the above action (#1) will be:
1st Offense – Suspension from the Athletic Program for 1 calendar year.
(This is a “ZERO Tolerance” Policy)
2. Use of alcohol will not be condoned. This includes, but is not limited to, being issued a citation for Minor in Possession, Driving While Intoxicated, Under the Influence, etc.
3. If you are arrested or charged with any criminal activity that brings disgrace or dishonor to the Taylor Athletic Program.

The consequences for the above actions (#2 & #3) will be:

- 1st Offense: 2-week suspension from the sport;
 - 2nd Offense: Expulsion from that sport for the remainder of the season.
4. Any emotional outburst towards a teacher, administrator, coach, or fellow player. Any activity, which is considered disrespectful on the field or in the school environment.
 5. Any use of tobacco products in the public or school environment.
The consequences for the above actions (#4 & #5) will be:
1st Offense: 1-week suspension from the sport; **in addition to specific sports discipline policies.**
2nd Offense: 2-week suspension from the sport; **in addition to specific sports discipline policies.**
3rd Offense: Expulsion from that sport for the remainder of the season.
 6. Athletes must call in before missing an athletic period, practice, or game.
The consequences for the above action (#6) will be:
Unexcused (not called in) -disciplinary action of that sport before competition and a make up practice;
Excused (called in) -must do a make up practice before competition.

*Use means that a student has voluntarily introduced into his or her body by any means a prohibited substance recently enough that it is detectable by the student’s physical appearance, actions, breath, or speech.

I have read and agree to the above contract.

Date

Student Signature

Athletic Director Signature

Parent Signature

Assistant Principal

Parent’s Phone Number