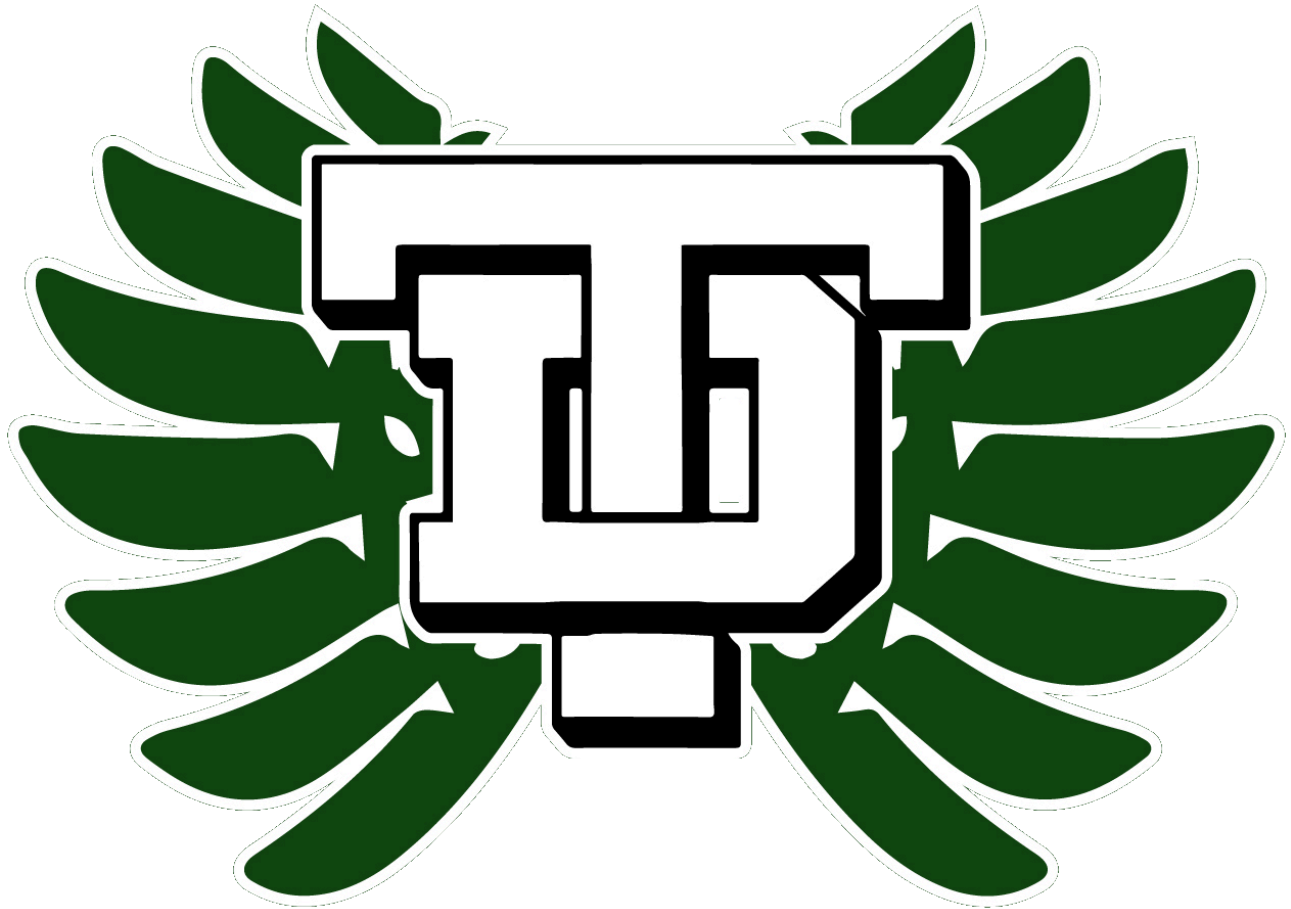


Taylor ISD



Athletic Handbook 2025-2026

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TAYLOR ISD ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

The Athletic Handbook is available online at <https://www.taylorisd.org/Page/235>.

Please retain this copy of the handbook for your records.

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the guidelines in the Athletic Handbook set forth by the Taylor ISD Athletic Department.

Students and Parents/Guardians must sign and return the acknowledgement on page 28 of this handbook before participating in any Taylor ISD Athletic program.

Thank you.

Taylor ISD Athletic Department

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TAYLOR ATHLETICS

- The Taylor ISD 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 Superintendent, or the Board of Education and/or Athletic Director.
- 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of this Athletic Handbook conflict with federal or state laws, and regulations, or Board policy, those provisions are superseded by applicable law or Board policy.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.

TAYLOR ATHLETICS OVERVIEW

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 Taylor ISD Office of Athletics is to ensure and enhance the quality of life for our 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 contests, 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 ISD.

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.

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 are 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. Expectations 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

When your children are members of the athletic program 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, ways to help your child improve, concerns about your child's attitude, or academic support.

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.

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. There will only be a conference about how the athlete can improve.

When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures should be followed to help promote resolution:

1. Call or email the coach to set up an appointment.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, contact the Athletic Director. A meeting will be set up for you. A meeting with the Athletic Director will not take place until the parents have met directly with the specific coach first.
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 and Athletic Director does not provide a satisfactory resolution, the next step is to set up an appointment with the Assistant Superintendent.

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 ISD.

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 children 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 of. 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.
- Students will not be allowed into the athletic period after the counselor has declared schedule changes final for that semester (approximately 2 weeks). However, students will have an opportunity to get back into athletics at the beginning of the next semester. (Exception: does not apply to new students enrolling into Taylor ISD for the first time)

- If a student that is not in athletics wishes to make a schedule change into athletics in the spring semester, they must interview with the athletic director and girls' coordinator (if necessary). The athletic director will take into consideration the student's academic record, disciplinary record, attendance record, and reason for wanting to get into the athletic program.
- In order to participate in a team sport (football, volleyball, basketball, soccer, baseball, softball, and track) students must meet with the Athletic Director, Girls' Coordinator, and Head Coach before joining.
- 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

● PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

- All students must have a physical on file.
- Athletic physicals are required for incoming 9th and 11th graders for Taylor ISD student-athletes.
- 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 a physical examination prior to participation.
- The physical examination forms are available online at Rank One, from the Athletic Trainer, or the school website at taylorisd.org.

● UIL/ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT FORMS PACKET

- In addition to the Medical History and Physical Examination Form, students and parents must complete the UIL forms packet every year which includes:
 - UIL Acknowledgement of Rules
 - General Information and Eligibility Rules
 - UIL Parent and Student Agreement/Acknowledgement Form
 - Anabolic Steroid Use and Random Steroid Testing
 - Taylor ISD Athletic Policies
 - Concussion Acknowledgement Form.
- The packet must be filled out completely with no blanks.

- **TAYLOR ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**

- Our current Handbook is offered online at <https://www.taylorisd.org/Page/235>. If you need a hard copy of this, please contact the Athletic Office and we will provide.
- The student-athlete and the parent/guardian should sign the Handbook Acknowledgement form which is provided in the Athletic Department Forms Packet. This confirms receipt of the Athletic Handbook and acknowledges that the student-athlete and parent/guardian will comply with the rules and policies in the Athletic Handbook.

- **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.
- Beginning the ninth grade year, the student must have been promoted from the eighth grade to the ninth grade
- Beginning with the tenth grade year, the student must have at least 5 credits towards graduation.
- Beginning the eleventh grade year, the student must have at least 10 credits toward graduation or during the preceding 12 months, he/she must have earned 5 credits.
- Beginning the twelfth grade year, the student must have 15 credits toward graduation or during the preceding 12 months, he/she has earned 5 credits.
- A student participating in UIL 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 and the suspension will be removed if the student is passing all classes with a grade equal to or greater than 70.

- **ATHLETIC ENROLLMENT**

- A student must be enrolled in athletics to participate in a sport with the exception of Powerlifting. (Powerlifting is not a UIL Sport)
- A student must meet any additional requirements set forth by the head coach of each sport.

- **ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES**

- **COACHES' RULE**

- Coaches may establish additional rules and regulations with the approval of the Athletic Director for their respective sports.
- Rules pertaining to each sport must be communicated by the coach at the start of the season.
- The coach shall administer penalties for violation of team rules.

- **DISCIPLINE/ATTENDANCE**

- All discipline issues will be handled according to the level of the infraction.

- **Level 1: 50 burpees per infraction**

- Athletic tardiness
- 1st classroom/athletic discipline infraction
- 1st locker room misuse infraction
- **3 Level 1 infractions equals a Level 3 infraction**

- **Level 2: 1 mile and 50 burpees per infraction**

- Unexcused absences
- 2nd classroom discipline infraction
- 2nd locker room misuse infraction
- Disparaging remarks about coaches, teammates, and/or programs on social media.
- Offensive or inappropriate language in a game
- Disrespectful behavior towards administrators/teachers/coaches/referees
- **2 Level 2 infractions equals a Level 3 infraction**

- **Level 3: 3 miles and 50 burpees per mile per infraction**

- Ejection, obscene physical gestures in a game
- 3rd classroom discipline infraction
- 3rd locker room infraction
- Skipping athletic period, practice, or games
- Hazing/Bullying "online and/or in person"
- Fighting
- ISS/OSS/TOC
- **Three Level 3 offenses is a behavior contract meeting w/ HC and AD/GC**

- Discipline yourself, so others won't have to!!! Type of discipline is required, the purpose is to help athletes improve themselves, and to become a better person.
- Failure to accept this on the part of the athlete or parent/guardian may result in dismissal from the team and/or athletic program.
- Teachers are encouraged to communicate with the coaching staff when they are having disciplinary issues with a student. Teachers may refer students to coaches and coaches may use disciplinary action for student referrals.

PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

In accordance with House Bill 1481, personal communication devices (including but not limited to cell phones, smartwatches, tablets, and other electronic devices) are prohibited during:

- Athletic games and competitions
- Instructional periods
- Practice sessions

The Athletic Department will collect all personal communication devices from student-athletes prior to the start of games, instruction, or practice. Devices will be:

- Collected in a secure, designated area
- Properly stored during the activity
- Returned to students immediately following the conclusion of the activity

Limited exceptions to this policy may be granted by the Athletic Director for specific events or circumstances.

Student-athletes are expected to:

- Surrender personal communication devices when requested
- Follow all collection and return procedures
- Understand that failure to comply may result in disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct

In case of emergencies, parents should contact the Athletic Department or coaching staff directly.

- **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 Head Coach and the Athletic Director.
- Parents will receive notification and be invited to attend the conference.
- Multiple removals can result in permanent removal from Taylor athletics per the athletic director.

- **ISS PLACEMENT**

- If a student is placed in ISS (In-School Suspension) or is suspended for any Student Code of Conduct disciplinary offense, he/she will receive the following disciplinary action:
 - ISS- 3 miles and 50 burpees (Level 3 offense)
 - No game play if you have ISS on a game day (Half or Full)
- A Student's ISS term ends at the end of the school day on the last day of their ISS placement.
- Students are still required to attend all after-school practices while in ISS.
- A scrimmage is considered a practice, not a contest.
- An athlete placed in ISS or detention is still expected to participate in after school practices. Failure to report to after school workout will result in an unexcused absence.

- **DAEP PLACEMENT**

- TOC/OSS:
 - Meeting with Head Coach, Girls Coordinator, & Athletic Director to discuss the student athlete's status in the athletic program.
 - If the athlete is in good standing, they will run one mile and 50 burpees for each day assigned before they can rejoin any team or participate in athletics. Maximum of 4 miles per day and must be done under the supervision of a Coach.
 - Behavior Contract/Athletic Probation
 - For certain circumstances, students will be placed on athletic probation.
 - Athletic probation means that any future serious offense or any series of minor offenses may result in removal from the athletic program.

- If another violation occurs, the student will be subjected to a review of his/her actions to determine eligibility to remain in the program.
- The athletic department reserves the right to institute any other such rules as may be necessary to insure efficient operation of the athletic program and protect the wellbeing of all athletes.
 - Athletes with multiple placements, multiple suspensions, or if you are not passing all of your classes upon return are at risk of not being in good standing.
 - Suspensions may carry over to the athlete's next sport or the next season.
- Any athlete placed in DAEP will not be allowed to participate in any athletic activities during their DAEP placement.
- A student must complete all make-up before they will be eligible to compete.

- **HAZING**

- "Hazing" will be treated as a Level 3 offense.
- "Hazing" is against the law and will not be tolerated.
- Hazing means any intentional or reckless act, 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:
 - Engages in hazing.
 - Solicits, encourages, directs, aids, attempts to aid in hazing.
 - Recklessly permits hazing to occur.
 - Has firsthand knowledge of the planning of a specific hazing incident involving a student, or first-hand knowledge that a specific incident has occurred, and knowingly fails to report that knowledge in writing to the Principal, Athletic Director, or Head Coach.

- **ATTENDANCE (Class, Athletics, Practice, Game)**

- Accountability and Dependability go hand in hand!
- Be in class. Be on time. The best ability in the world is AVAILABILITY!
- If you must miss an athletic period or practice, be sure that it can't be avoided.
- If you must be absent, it is YOUR responsibility to communicate with the head coach of your sport to inform him/her of your absence.

- It is the obligation and responsibility of team members to attend scheduled practices, contests, and meetings regularly and on time.
- If an unavoidable conflict arises with a practice or contest, one of the coaches should be notified before the workout or game.
- Failure to make contact prior to the practice, contest, or meeting may result in the absence being considered unexcused.
- Athletes will be required to complete any missing assignments for any and all absences that occur. We will condition for excused absences to maintain playing shape. We will hand out consequences for unexcused absences to remind athletes of their commitment to the team.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Excused absences: doctor, funeral, hospitalization, school events, college visits, all with documentation.

- More than 3 excused absences, with the exception of school events, is subject for removal from athletics
- Athletes should understand that when they have to miss, it is imperative that a coach be notified prior to the absence.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

- Unexcused absences are a Level 2 offense
- **Unexcused** or **caught skipping any class on game day** means that you can not play in the game that day.
- **Two** unexcused practice absences throughout the week means that you will not participate in the game that week.
- More than **three** unexcused absences the student athlete could be subject to removal from athletics.
- Other absences subject to coaches discretion and approval with a minimum of a week's notice from a parent/guardian.
- Athletes and parents should understand that failure to notify the coach prior to an absence will usually result in the absence being considered unexcused.
- Some extenuating situations will be considered for an excused absence without prior notification.
- If there is a question as to whether it is excused or not, the head coach and/or athletic director will make the decision.

MULTIPLE ABSENCES

- Athletes should understand that habitual absences, even though they may be excused, become detrimental to their ability to perform and to their knowledge of team concepts.
- Habitual absences will result in disciplinary actions, including loss of playing time and/or possible suspension or dismissal.
- Should an athlete have 6 permanent absences (absences that were not made up) in a semester or 10 in a year, they will be removed from athletics.

INJURED ATHLETES

Injured athletes who cannot actively participate in the workout must still follow all attendance policies. Being injured is not an excuse to miss practice.

- The injured athlete will be expected to dress out and participate mentally.
- This is also a time in which they may see the athletic trainer for treatment.
- Some injuries may not allow the athlete to dress out or attend practice. If there is a question, the head coach - in conjunction with the athletic trainer - will make the decision on the athlete dressing out or attending the workout.
- Athletes will need a doctor's note stating what the athlete can and/or cannot do, the time frame for the note (when is follow-up or when do restrictions end), and any possible rehab routine that could be done during the athletic period if applicable. A note from home will not suffice. If an athlete is injured, we need to see our athletic trainer so they can make the proper decision and recommendation.

INELIGIBLE ATHLETES

- Ineligible athletes shall attend and participate in workouts, unless excused by the head coach to attend tutorials or remediation.
- By attending and participating in workouts, the athlete may represent the team again at the end of the ineligible period.

TARDIES

- It is also very important for a team member to be on time and to remain at a practice for its duration.
- Any team member who arrives late to practice or who leaves early is disruptive to the team's improvement and game plan.
- Tardy (Athletics Only): Level 1

- **DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR MISSED ATHLETIC PERIODS, PRACTICES, OR CONTESTS**

- Athletes who skip the athletic period, practice, or a game will result in a Level 3 disciplinary action.
- Athletes must complete all ISS/DAEP or disciplinary work before being allowed to participate.

- **ACADEMICS**

- All students are required to remain academically eligible to participate.
- When an athlete is academically ineligible for (2) nine week grading periods, they will be dismissed from athletics. They do not have to be consecutive.
- Coaches will conduct weekly grade checks to monitor academic performance.
- Coaches will monitor student grades and encourage athletes to take advantage of the tutorials and/or other resources that are available to help them with their grades.
- If necessary, coaches may assign and require athletes to attend specific tutorials.
- Failure to take care of his/her grades will result in the athlete being placed on academic probation or removed from athletic competition or the athletic program. Their grades will be closely monitored, and they will be expected to show improvement in their grades during the probationary period.

- **QUITTING A SPORT**

- There will be a three-week grace period from the day the athlete begins a sport for the first time, where if the athlete quits the sport, there will be no penalty. This is for off-season sports only.
- Students must bring a note from parents or guardians stating that the parent/guardian is aware of the student's intention to quit and its implications.
- Students must meet with the Head Coach of the sport to discuss the implications of quitting.
- The student forfeits the right to participate in that sport, receive any further awards or accolades related to that sport, or be recognized as a participant of that sport.
- The student will not be able to participate in another sport until the team the athlete quit has completed its regular season. This includes the athletic period and any formal practices after school.
- The student will remain with their current sport during the athletic period unless agreed upon by all coaches.

- Example: If a student quits football during the season, they will still go with the football team during the athletic period and either perform the workout (if applicable) or other duties that do not require them to participate in the sport/practice such as help organize equipment, distribute water, etc.
 - The Athletic Director and Head Coaches of sports involved may 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 could be considered by the coach to have quit the team.
 - Students can be dismissed from a sport by the head coach of the sport at the coach's discretion for violation of team rules, academic violations, insubordination, among other things.
 - If an athlete quits any sport more than once - outside of any grace period - they will be dismissed from the athletic program for one year AND go through the re-entry procedures before being allowed to return to the athletic program.
- **RE-ENTRY INTO ATHLETIC PROGRAM**
 - Interview with the Athletic Director, Girls' Coordinator, and Head Coach of the sport you wish to enter, to explain why you should be granted the privilege of being in athletics.
 - The student could go through the off-season strength and conditioning program to be eligible to participate in any sport.
 - The student must be in good academic and disciplinary standing.
- **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.
 - 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:

- Extent of tryout period and/or criteria used to select the team
- Approximate number of teams and players to be selected
- Practice and game commitment if they make the team

- **INJURY OR ILLNESS**

- Make every attempt to notify and see the Athletic Trainer as soon as an injury occurs.
- The Athletic Trainer will either treat you or refer you to a physician.
- If an athletic trainer is not available coaches may treat the injury within their scope, and refer to the appropriate trainer, nurse, or physician based on injury, severity, circumstances, etc.
- If you must leave school because of illness, contact the Athletic Office or Head Coach.
- 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 or athletic trainer.
- Athletes will need a doctor's note stating what the athlete can and/or cannot do, the time frame for the note (when is follow-up or when do restrictions end), and any possible rehab routine that could be done during the athletic period if applicable. A note from home will not suffice.
- If an athlete is injured, we need to see our trainer so they can make the proper decision and recommendation.

- **RESPECT FOR OTHERS**

- Players are expected to show respect for the opposing players, coaches, officials, spectators, and support groups.
- Players are expected to refrain from "trash-talking" opposing players, coaches, or spectators.
- Players are expected to refrain from confrontations with officials regarding calls.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct in games (EXAMPLE):
 - Level 2: Offensive and/or inappropriate language, Talking back to referee or other team's Coaches
 - Level 3: Ejection, obscene physical gestures, fighting(opposing team/teammates)

PROMPTNESS

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

FAILURE TO TRAVEL WITH THE TEAM:

- If a student misses the scheduled departure time and does not travel with the team to the site of the event, they will not play in that game even if they manage to arrive at the destination.
- The exception to this would be if a student was unable to travel with the team due to a school event or an extenuating circumstance that was discussed and arranged with the coach prior to departure.

• 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.
- 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.
- Both male and female athletes will be neat and clean in appearance.
- For both safety concerns and UIL rules, no jewelry or unnecessary head garments (not related to the needs of the sport) 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.
- When attending athletic contests, students must meet Taylor ISD student dress code policy.
- The attire they wear will be designated by the sport head coach. This may be team gear as designated by the coach, game uniform, or attire in accordance with school dress code.

- **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.
- Students should immediately notify 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 or Girls' Coordinator will make a decision based on one or more of the following:
 - The relative importance of each event.
 - The importance of each event to the student.
 - The relative contribution the student can make.
 - Length of time each event has been scheduled
 - 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.

- **TRAVEL**

- All athletes represent the community, school, and coaches.
- 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 (see travel after event exceptions below)
- If a student misses the scheduled departure time and does not travel with the team to the site of the event, they will not play in that game even if they manage to arrive at the destination.

- The exception to this would be if a student was unable to travel with the team due to a school event or an extenuating circumstance that was discussed and arranged with the coach prior to departure.
- If a student wishes to ride home after a game with their parent:
 - A parent must submit in writing their intention to take their child home at the designated time by 10:00 am if it's a home game, and before the team departs to an away game.
 - The parent will still need to sign their child out before leaving.
 - The team coach may require a specific procedure to handle uniforms and equipment prior to the student leaving. (place uniforms in a team bag, designate another player to return equipment, etc.)
 - The team coach may also require that team members stay through no more than half of the following game. (2 sets or 2 quarters)
 - Any instance where a student must leave immediately after the game to attend another school event will waive any such requirement.
- If there are extenuating circumstances in which a parent needs their child to leave with another family member or adult, they must:
 - Send an email to the team coach by 10:00 am if it's a home game, and before the team departs to an away game.
 - The email must include a brief explanation as to the emergency/reason, the adult's name and relationship to the student, and that person's contact number.
 - The coach will follow up with the parent after receiving the email to verify the request.
 - If there is an extreme emergency such as death, unforeseen accident, etc. a phone call may be the most appropriate/applicable form of communication.
 - If an athlete is injured in a contest away from home, the above policy may be altered to meet the circumstances.
- **VACATIONS**
 - Vacations by athletic team members during a sports 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.
 - The athletic department will not have activities the week after school ends or the week of the 4th of July.

- In the event of an absence due to a vacation that is unavoidable, an athlete must:
 - Contact the head coach prior to the vacation.
 - Expect to do any make-up and disciplinary exercise for time that they were out.
 - Be willing to assume the consequences related to their status on the squad as a starter, 2nd string, etc. for the time missed.

- **CLUB SPORTS**
 - A club sport is a sports program outside the school that is not affiliated with UIL athletics. We are very fortunate to live in a community where our 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:
 - Contact all head coaches of sports at the school in which he/she is participating.
 - Expect to do any make-up and disciplinary exercise for the time that they are out.
 - 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.

- **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 for those students who desire to take part in the Taylor Athletic Program.
 - The consequences for violation are aligned with the Taylor High School and Taylor Middle School discipline policy.
 - The athletic consequence will be based on the school consequence.

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

- **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. We will abide by Taylor ISD disciplinary rulings.

- **LOCKER ROOM**

- Athletes are expected to help keep locker rooms neat and sanitary.
- It is the responsibility of the athletes to throw away trash, pick up equipment, and keep the locker room clean.
- All equipment should be hung or placed in the lockers.
- No equipment should be left on the floor.
- Students will follow all posted locker guidelines or face disciplinary actions.
- Keep all valuables locked up. (Some athletes may not have access to lock boxes to secure valuables. They should make arrangements with their coach to secure valuables.)
- Valuable items that cannot be secured in your locker should not be brought into the locker room or should be turned in to a coach.
- Do not leave valuables out in the open.
- Stolen items will be the responsibility of the athlete.
- Locker Room Misuse: Trashing the area or unnecessary items left out
 - First offense-Level 1
 - Second offense-Level 2
 - Third offense-Level 3

- **AWARD POLICIES**

- UIL 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.
- Understood that the head coach only 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 UIL inter-school competitions.
- One additional symbolic award, not to exceed \$10.00 in value, may be presented for participation in each UIL 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.

- **CRITERIA FOR AWARDING VARSITY ATHLETIC LETTERS**

- Participant must have completed the season as a Varsity member in good standing, meet UIL requirements, and meet one of the following criteria to be eligible for consideration:
 - Baseball, Basketball, Football, Soccer, Softball, and Volleyball:
 - Competes in 40% of the available game action on the varsity level.
 - This excludes sub-Varsity athletes who are moved up for playoff purposes.
 - Cross Country, Golf, Powerlifting, Tennis, and Track:
 - Competes and finishes a minimum of 2 meets
 - Or place in the varsity district meet (6th place or higher) or qualifies for regionals
 - Athletic Training:
 - Serve as a trainer for 3 sports and maintain eligibility for the entirety of each of those seasons
 - Special exemption may be considered for such things as serious injury/illness, unforeseeable hardship, or other extenuating circumstances
- Letter jackets will not be awarded to any student that is no longer in good standing or no longer a part of the Taylor athletic program.

SPORTSMANSHIP – ATHLETES, PARENTS, SPECTATORS

The Taylor ISD administration and athletic department feel it is very important that sportsmanship is demonstrated at all athletic contests. Athletes must understand the importance of respecting the decisions of game officials.

Spectators should exhibit the same respect to game officials. The officials are impartial arbitrators who are trained and who perform to the best of their ability. Mistakes by all those involved in the contests are a part of the game.

Spectators verbally abusing officials with insults, threats and profanity can result in the athletic team being punished under the rules of the UIL. This punishment can result in a team having to forfeit a contest or possibly being suspended or disqualified from playoff competition. Be sure everyone understands the potential seriousness of possible consequences that could be placed upon the school's athletic program if misbehavior of spectators is reported to the UIL.

TAYLOR ISD EXPECTATIONS OF SPECTATORS, ATHLETES, AND COACHES

- Good sportsmanship is a must. Be the example.
- Show respect at all times.
- Profanity will not be tolerated.
- Insults directed to officials, players, coaches, or other fans will not be tolerated.
- No noise makers are allowed at indoor competitions.
- Only cheers that support the teams will be allowed.
- Those unable to exhibit proper sportsmanship will be unable to attend games.

The following are a list of behavior expectations of athletes and spectators. These lists appear in the Sportsmanship Manual developed by the UIL. Become aware of these expectations, as well as the ones above, and put them into action. Together we want to present a positive image of Taylor to the game officials and to our opponents.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS OF THE STUDENT-ATHLETE

- Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility and the privilege of representing your school and the community.
- Live up to standards of sportsmanship established by the school administration and the coaching staff.
- Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with parents, fans, and fellow students. This will assist both them and you in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
- Treat opponents the way you would like to be treated, as a guest or friend. Who better than you can understand all the hard work and team effort that is required of your sport?
- Wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a courteous manner following either victory or defeat.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will only make a positive impression of you and your team in the eyes of the officials and everyone at the contest.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS OF SPECTATORS

- Remember that you are at the contest to support and yell 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 on or near the site of the event.
- 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.
- Refrain from talking to or arguing with the referees. They reserve the right to ask that you be removed from a contest.
- First offense will result in verbal and written warning.
- The second offense will result in removal from all Taylor ISD athletic events, including away events.

TEN COMMANDMENTS OF CHAMPIONSHIP ATHLETIC PARENTS

1. Be positive with your son/daughter. Let them know they are accomplishing something by simply being part of the team.
2. Do not offer excuses or place blame if your son/daughter is not playing. Be supportive and encourage them to work hard and do their best.
3. Do not criticize the coaches in front of students. Coaches, like parents, represent authority; they are teachers charged with the responsibility of education in a complex society. Continual parental criticism creates doubt in the mind of the athlete and can render the coaches ineffective. As a result, the athlete becomes a complainer, not a doer!
4. Encourage your son/daughter to live an athletic life off the field of play. An athlete must have proper rest and diet to be effective mentally and physically. Know what your athlete is doing at all times. Be accountable for your child.
5. Insist on good grades. If an athlete is not passing, he/she cannot play. We want an athlete to be a successful person, not just a successful athlete.
6. Do not live your life through your son/daughter. Athletics are for the students, let them play! Do not show animosity or jealousy toward any of your child's teammates. This type of envy can rub off on your child and have an adverse effect on him/her and the team. Remember, it is amazing what can be accomplished when no one cares who gets the credit!

7. Allow the coaches to coach. They work with the athletes daily and know the individual abilities of each participant. They are professionals and have been trained to coach.
8. Understand the athletic pyramid. The further one advances in athletics, the more difficult it becomes to be successful. Being a little league all-star does not ensure success at the high school level. Each level becomes more demanding and requires more parental support and understanding.
9. Your successes, a sibling's successes, do not constitute guaranteed success for all family members. Each child is an individual, unique, like no other before or after. The battle one must wage is against oneself, against taking the line of least resistance, against not working for self-improvement. Comparisons, although inevitable, should be avoided at all costs because they can lead to irreparable damage.
10. Love your child for who he/she is, not for his/her athletic accomplishments. Your child is a human being, not an object.

COLLEGE SPORTS

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), an organization founded in 1906 that has established rules on eligibility, recruiting, and financial aid, regulates many college sports. The NCAA has four membership divisions - Division I, Division I-AA, Division II, and Division III. Institutions are members in one or another division according to size and scope of their athletic programs and whether they provide athletic scholarships.

If you are planning to enroll in college as a freshman and you wish to participate in Division I or Division II sports, you must be certified by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse will analyze your academic information and determine if you meet the NCAA's initial-eligibility requirements.

CORE COURSES:

Division I:

- At least four years English
- At least three years math
- At least two years social science
- At least two years natural or physical science (including one lab course if offered)
- At least one year additional classes in English, math or natural or physical science
- Four additional academic courses in any of these areas: foreign language, computer science or comparative religion.

Division II:

- Same as above except only two-year math and three additional academic courses.

It is also your responsibility to make sure the Clearinghouse has the documents it needs to certify you. These documents are:

- Your completed and signed Student Release Form and fee.
- Your official high school transcript
- Your ACT or SAT scores

The NCAA Clearinghouse may be reached as follows:

NCAA Clearinghouse
2255 North Dubuque Road
P.O. Box 4044
Iowa City, IA 52243-4044
(319) 337-1492

ASTHMA POLICY (conditions that require the use of prescribed medication)

- The asthmatic athlete is to bring at least one extra inhaler to the school to be kept by the athletic trainer or coach.
- A note from the parent(s) to the athletic trainer or coach stating that the inhaler is the correct prescription and that the athletic trainer or coach has the authorization to administer the dose is also required.
- The athlete is responsible for giving the medication to the athletic trainer or coach, and for obtaining replacements when they become empty.
- The asthmatic athlete is responsible for using the inhaler properly.
- The athlete's inhaler (personal/own) must be present on the field/gym/court during all practices and during games/matches.
- The athlete will not be allowed to participate if their rescue medicine is not present.
- The athletes are not allowed to use another player's medication.
- Not having proper medication may result in not being allowed to participate, and having to make-up the missed practice and/or additional make-up work.
- The asthmatic athlete must be stable (the medicine works as designed) with the proper medications. When an individual must use their medication twice during an exercise period, or more than four times per week during an exercise period, the athlete may be considered as unstable and may need to be referred to their physician for evaluation and possible adjustments in the medication and its use.
- Communication between the player, coach, & athletic trainer is vital. For instance, if a player was awake the previous night with an asthma attack, he/she could be excused from practice the next day with a note from the parent to verify the previous night's problem. This exclusion from practice does not relieve the athlete of the responsibility to make up the practice at a later date.

DIABETES POLICY

- Any Taylor ISD student participating in any Taylor ISD & UIL sponsored athletic activity that has been diagnosed (by a licensed physician) with any form of diabetes, is currently under a physician's care, and is receiving treatment for their type of Diabetes, MUST inform the athletic trainer and their coaches of their diabetes and treatment requirements.
- The student is required to provide the athletic trainer/coaching staff with both their type of diabetes and any special medications or dietary requirements.
- This information is required to be on the medical history form, and on the emergency information form.
- Talking directly to the athletic trainer about the condition is always the safe route!

PREGNANCY POLICY

- Any female athlete that discovers she is pregnant must notify the Athletic Director and Girls' Coordinator immediately upon awareness.
- The pregnant athlete will not be allowed to participate in any practice or contest in order to protect the health of both the mother and the unborn child until any such clearance is provided in writing from their doctor.
- In order to return to competition before delivery the athlete must obtain a release from a licensed physician.
- A release from a licensed physician is also required for return to competition.
- Taylor ISD is not responsible for any complications incurred (to the pregnancy) during athletic participation while an athlete is pregnant.

TAYLOR DUCKS ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

It is the purpose of Taylor Athletics to complement the academic program. To this end, we will strive to teach character lessons through competitive athletics that will, hopefully, enhance the learning environment for students participating in the program.

As athletes, we expect that our students conduct themselves at all times in a manner which will reflect positively on the athletic program, the school, and the community. We expect our athletes to be positive role models for the other members of the student body.

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

- Students who behave in a manner that reflects poorly on the athletic department will subject themselves to disciplinary action.
- Disciplinary action which may be taken, include but is not limited to the following areas:
 - Extra physical training as assigned by the coach

- Missing one or more future contests
 - Suspension from team or athletics for a period of time specified by the coach
 - Behavior Contract/Probation
 - Removal from the athletic program
 - Combinations of the actions listed above
- The athletic department will strive to be as fair and as equitable as possible in the administration of disciplinary action.
- Each student's case will be evaluated on an individual basis.
- The department will take such action as it feels is in the best interest of the student and the program.

TAYLOR DUCKS ATHLETIC CONTRACT

This athletic handbook was prepared to inform Taylor ISD athletes and their parents of the expectations during their participation in the athletic program. The intent of this handbook is to establish as much uniformity as possible in the administration of the guidelines of the athletic department.

Parents and students have a right to appeal decisions with which they do not agree. The appeal process is outlined in board policy, which may be obtained from the office of the Principal or Superintendent.

I, the undersigned athlete, understand that by playing for the Taylor Athletic Department, regardless of the sport, do agree that I am a student athlete and will abide by the guidelines set forth by the Athletic Department Coaching Staff. It is a privilege and an honor to wear the Green and White of this program and represent the community of Taylor.

I trust that my coaches have mine and the team's best interest in mind when they make decisions. These decisions include but are not limited to the following: position, team, play calling, playing time, and disciplinary action. I will not argue with my coaches or teammates or be a distraction to the program.

I also understand that by signing this contract, I am letting the coaches, administration of this school, and the team know that I too am about the team, the program, the school, and the community; and that I want what is best for those that I represent. I understand the importance of practice and being there for my team. I promise to put the team first and myself second regardless of the situation. I understand that by not meeting the expected criteria, action will be taken by the coaching staff and / or administration that can include but is not limited to extra physical demand or dismissal from the team.

I, the undersigned parent / guardian, also agree to the criteria of this contract and am willing to support and uphold these policies as an athletic parent and supporter. I do understand that the coaching staff will hear any questions or concerns as long as those questions or concerns are presented in a timely, respectful, and orderly manner. I also understand that if my student / athlete is not successful in meeting the expected criteria, action will be taken by the coaching staff and / or administration that can include but is not limited to extra physical demand or dismissal from the team.

I am aware of the significance of the Athletic Code and the Athletic Contract. I am aware of the disciplinary action for breaking these rules and not upholding the Athletic Contract, and that the main degree of prevention of the breaking of these rules and upholding the contract, lies in the hands of the student athletes and their parents.

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.

I have read and agreed to the above contract.

STUDENT PRINTED NAME & DATE

STUDENT SIGNATURE

PARENT/GUARDIAN PRINTED NAME & DATE

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE