



Introduction

The primary purpose of the Athletic Program in the Big Spring Independent School District (BSISD) is to promote the physical, mental, social, emotional, and moral well-being of the participants. It is hoped that athletics in our schools will be a positive force in preparing youth for an enriching and vital role in American life. The Athletic Program is an important and integral part of the total school program and is open to participation by all students regardless of individual abilities and capabilities. Through voluntary participation, the athlete gives time, energy, and loyalty to the program. He/she accepts the training rules, regulations, and responsibilities which are unique to the Athletic Program. In order to contribute to the welfare of the group, the athlete must willingly assume these obligations for the role demands that the individual make sacrifices not required of others.

In addition to the "Rules and Regulations for Students in the Big Spring Public Schools," Athletic Program participants are also governed by the University Scholastic League (UIL) High School Athletic Code and the BSISD Athletic Code.

BSISD Athletic Code of Conduct

Section I - General Regulations

- A. The UIL Rules must be followed in all cases of eligibility, transfer, physical examinations, insurance coverage, starting dates, use of school equipment, etc. each coach has the responsibility to know, to inform team members and parents, and to enforce school and UIL regulations in these matters.
- B. **Any civil law infraction &/or conduct** by a student athlete that is determined by the Head Coach, &/or A.D. to be detrimental to the Athletic Program, school, community, or BSISD will result in counseling by the Head Coach and A.D. with the possibility of suspension. The term student athlete includes any student participating in the Athletic Program, including student managers, and student athletic trainers.
- C. One of the purposes of this handbook is to ensure that the athletic department policies and rulings are as consistent as possible when an infraction occurs. No handbook can cover every possible scenario. Since infractions vary, the Athletic Director has the discretion to evaluate rule infractions by student athletes on a case by case basis. Once the facts are gathered regarding an infraction, the Athletic Director has the discretion to assess penalties as stated in this handbook including corporal punishment, physical conditioning, suspension, and/or removal from the athletic program. All athletes must uphold the athletic standards and community expectation.
- D. No student athlete may quit one sport and go out for another after the season has begun without the mutual consent of both Head Coaches.
- E. Student athletes must travel to and from athletic contests away from Big Spring in transportation provided by the school district. The only exceptions are:
 - 1. Injury to a student athlete which would require alternate transportation.
 - 2. Prior arrangement between the student athlete's parent/guardian and the coach for the student athlete to ride with the parent/guardian.
- F. A display of unsportsmanlike conduct toward an opponent, official or coach or use of profanity during an athletic practice or athletic contest will result in counseling by the Head Coach, possible physical conditioning, and possible suspension. If it is determined that an athlete knowingly and willfully commits an unsportsmanlike act:
 - First Offense**- 1 mile for the team – 2 miles for the individual
 - Second Offense**- 15 miles completed before playing in the next contest
 - Third Offense**- AD's discretion - removing the athlete from the athletic program.
- G. Unexcused absences (no call to the ATC) from scheduled athletic contest will result in makeup conditioning for the day/days absent. In addition, extra physical conditioning will be assessed by the head coach for the absence being unexcused. Multiple unexcused absences can lead to removal from the athletic program.

- H. Violations (ISS, OSS, AEP) requiring administrative action that would suspend a student athlete from **regular** school attendance will result in 2 miles for every day that the athlete is removed from the regular class. All running must be completed before the next contest, to participate.
- I. Theft or malicious destruction of any school or individual's equipment or property is not to be tolerated.
First Offense: The student athlete will be suspended from the team for five days and may be required to complete additional physical conditioning as determined by the Athletic Director. At the end of this period, following counseling by the head coach and A.D., a decision regarding further competition will be made. The time spent out of athletics CAN be counted against time served.
Second Offense: The student athlete will be suspended from the team for the remainder of the sports season and will be referred to the school administrator.
- J. The UIL defines the monetary value limits to be placed on awards given to high school athletes. At the present time, BSISD is allowed to give a letter jacket one time in a student athlete's high school career at Big Spring High School. One letter will be given at the time a student athlete earns their letter jacket. Only **one letter for each sport**, **NOT** one a year for each sport.

The Head Coach is responsible for setting the criteria for lettering in his/her sport. These criteria must be written down and on file in the Athletic Office and will be made available upon request. Any athlete that does not meet definite criteria for lettering in a varsity sport which falls under the coaches discretion will be considered at a meeting between the head coach and the Athletic Director (A.D. will act as the third party) to determine whether the athlete is eligible for a letter award.

- K. The grooming code for athletes at any BSISD Campus will be as follows:
1. Male athletes will have their hair no longer than a dress shirt collar in the back and no longer than the bottom of the ear lobes on the sides and no longer than the eyebrows in the front. There will be NO facial hair present. Sideburns will be no longer than the ear lobes and no chops.
 2. Both male & female athletes must have a hair style that does not draw attention to themselves in an attempt to stand out in a radical fashion.
 3. No athlete will wear earrings or necklaces while representing BSISD in athletic competition.
 4. Both male and female athletes will dress in a manner that will represent their school and community in a positive manner when at an athletic contest. School dress code will apply at all times, at both home & away games.
 5. Head Coach/A.D. has the final determination on the appropriate dress & grooming.
- L. Any student engaging in conduct punishable as a felony will not be allowed to participate in athletics. Head Coach/AD will determine re-entry into athletics.

Section II - School Attendance Policy

- A. A student must be in school through the attendance period in order to participate in an activity that day. An exception would be made if the student had an approved medical appointment. In the case of a medical excuse, the student must present to the Attendance Supervisor a signed statement from the doctor regarding the absence.
- B. If a student athlete is absent the last school day of the week, and the athletic competition is on a non-school day, the student must bring to the coach a signed statement from the parent/guardian that permission is given to participate. It is recommended that the coach contact the parent regarding the absence.
- C. A student athlete who has been injured and has received medical treatment cannot participate again until cleared by a date indicated by the student athlete's physician.

Section III – Hazing & Bullying

A. Hazing

Any intentional, knowing, or reckless act directed against a student, by one person alone or acting with others that endanger the mental or physical health or the safety of a student for the purpose of being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are to include other students. The term includes but is not limited to:

1. Any type of physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body or similar activity.
2. Any type of physical activity, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, calisthenics, or other activity that adversely affects the mental or physical health or the safety of the student.
3. Any activity involving consumption of a food, liquid alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug, or other substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or the safety of the student.
4. Any activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that involves a violation of the Penal Code.

First Offense- The athlete will be physically conditioned as determined by the AD and possibly be suspended from one athletic contest.

Second Offense- Suspension from at least one athletic contest and additional physical conditioning as determined by the Athletic Director.

Third Offense- Suspension for calendar year.

B. Bullying

Includes these three ingredients:

1. Harm and humiliation are intended.
2. There is an imbalance of physical or psychological power between bully and victim.
3. The bullying action is repetitive, occurring over a period of time. Although single acts of aggression must be addressed, most students who experience an occasional unpleasant or even aggressive act in school are able to handle such incidents.

First Offense- The athlete will be physically conditioned as determined by the AD and possibly be suspended from one athletic contest.

Second Offense- Suspension from at least one athletic contest and additional physical conditioning as determined by the Athletic Director.

Third Offense- Suspension for calendar year.

No student or school employee shall engage in any form of hazing or bullying, nor encourage or assist any other person in hazing or bullying. Acts of hazing & bullying and failure to report known acts can result in criminal penalties, as well as school discipline.

Section IV - Use or Possession of Alcoholic Beverages, Smoking, Steroids, Drugs, Narcotics, or Hallucinating Agents by Athletic Program Participants is Prohibited.

A. Students are responsible for their conduct at all times. BSISD realizes that there is a difference between school related activities and free time activities. Therefore, conduct will be treated differently between the two activities. Students must remember that extracurricular and co-curricular activities are not a right, but a privilege. In doing so, student athletes are under their own set of rules and regulations as approved by the BSISD Administration.

B. Possession of or Consumption of any drugs other than alcohol

First Offense – Suspended from all Athletic Programs for a period of 90 school days.

Second Offense – Suspended from all Athletic Programs for one (1) calendar year.

Third Offense - Out of Athletic Program

At the end of any suspension period, a review will be held to determine if the athlete will be readmitted to the Athletic Program. The BSISD Drug Testing Program may be found in Board Policy FNF (LOCAL).

C. Abuse of alcohol during the school year

During the school year, any student athlete involved with alcohol (possession of or consumption of) during free activities will be suspended under the following Athletic Code:

First Offense - 10 School Days Suspension

Second Offense - 20 School Days Suspension

Third Offense – 180 School Days Suspension

At the end of each suspension, the Head Coach and Athletic Director will determine if the athlete will be readmitted to the Athletic Program.

D. Abuse of alcohol during school related activities or while representing our school as an athlete

Any student involved with alcohol (possession of or consumption of) during a school related activity will be suspended under the following Athletic Code:

First Offense - 90 School Days

Second Offense – 180 School Days

Third Offense - Out of Athletic Program

E. Abuse of tobacco during the school year & during school related activities or while representing our school as an athlete

Any student involved with tobacco (possession of or consumption of) will result in physical conditioning determined by the AD & Head Coach. Multiple offenses can result in the removal from the athletic program.

While a BSISD athlete is serving a suspension, the student will be allowed to practice (in season practice days count toward suspension days) but will not be allowed to perform or participate. Summer school days will not be counted as school days while serving a suspension. If a student athlete is in DAEP, the student will not be able to participate until released from DAEP (TEC 37.006(g)).

Section V - Suspension Notification

Before a suspension provided for under the athletic code shall take effect, the student athlete shall be verbally advised by the Athletic Director and Head Coach of the alleged violation. The student athlete will have an opportunity to explain or justify the action. If after such conference the Athletic Director and Head Coach are satisfied that a suspension is justified, the student athlete will be notified and an attempt will be made to notify the parent/guardian. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the student athlete to notify the parent/guardian.

Section VI - Code Application

The rules and regulations in the athletic code of conduct handbook shall apply to any violation on or off school premises during the school year.

Parent Conferences and Communication

Parents of all student/athletes are encouraged to schedule a conference with the coach when they have a concern. If a problem or concern exists, student athletes are expected to visit with the coach about the problem in the coach's office. If the student has met with the coach and the issue is still not resolved, the parent should schedule a conference with the coach. It is not acceptable for a parent to approach a member of the coaching staff with a concern either during a practice or during or after a game. Since the time following a contest is often highly emotional for both parents and coaches, parents are expected to contact the coach the day following the contest to schedule a conference. If the issue is not resolved at the conference, the parent should schedule a conference with the Athletic Director.

Section VII - Additional Rules

Additional rules and regulations may be provided by the AD & Head Coach. Any additional rules and regulations must be in writing and on file in the Athletic Office.

Section VIII - Suspension Times

All suspensions can take place in season or out of season at the discretion of the Head Coach and Athletic Director.

Section IX - Grade Eligibility

Each athlete must meet the specific eligibility requirements for UIL athletic competition.

Each coach has the option to attach additional grade eligibility beyond the UIL standards. **Example:** A coach may want to remove a player after failing two consecutive six weeks out of a season.