

Borger ISD Athletic Handbook



2023-24

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WELCOME TO BORGER ISD ATHLETICS

This handbook is provided to assist families as it covers general guidelines that will govern the Borger ISD/UIIL process in grades 7-12 but cannot possibly cover every situation that will arise in the day-to-day activities of the athletic program. *The coaches of the individual sports reserve the right to issue additional sport specific requirements as needed.*

While reading this handbook you'll notice references to "student athlete", rather than "athlete" because we believe that children are students first, and athletic participation is a privilege. Student athletes learn teamwork and group responsibility. They also learn to deal with success and to overcome adversity.

Borger ISD athletics has 3 goals

1. Build the academic, physical, and mental toughness of all student athletes.
2. Win games and advance in the playoffs.
3. Help Borger High School place in the Top 10 of the UIL Lone Star Cup each year

PARTICIPATION PAPERWORK

All Student athletes in grades 7-12 must have the following paperwork on file with the Athletic Trainer to participate in athletics:

1. Physical Evaluation (Medical History Form completed annually)
2. Illegal Steroid Use Parent and Student Notification Agreement
3. Consent for treatment of minor
4. Acknowledgement of Rules
5. Parent and Student Notification/Agreement Form Illegal Steroid Use
6. Concussion Acknowledgement Form
7. Athletic Handbook Acknowledgement
8. Emergency Release Form

WARNING ON INHERENT DANGERS OF ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

Student athletes and parents should be aware that any athletic participation will always have inherent dangers. Although rare, death or catastrophic injury can result from participation in sports, and care should be taken by all concerned to minimize such dangers through the use of appropriate equipment, proper training methods and common sense.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

It is the policy of the Borger ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Act of 1975, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. No provision of an extracurricular behavior standard shall have the effect of discriminating on the basis of the athlete's sex, race, disability, religion, or ethnicity.

EXPECTATIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENT ATHLETES

1. Show acts of courtesy and service to all people and represent Borger above self
2. Strive for academic / athletic integrity and success.
3. Take care of their body, equipment, and facilities
4. Communicate any and all issues with their coaches.

STUDENT ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

Any student athlete in grades 7-12 involved in any misconduct is subject to disciplinary consequences in accordance with the Borger ISD Student Code of Conduct **and** may also receive additional consequences in athletics as determined by the sport head coach and/or athletic administration.

To be considered a violation, one or more of the following must occur:

- a. The student athlete or parent of the student athlete admits to a violation
- b. A Borger ISD administrator has reason to believe that a violation occurred
- c. A local agency makes a verbal or written report of a violation

Any school violation(s) that require In School Suspension (ISS): the student athlete may practice but won't be allowed to compete in games until the ISS is complete.

Any school violation(s) that require: Out of School Suspension (OSS), placed in a DAEP, or Expulsion all athletic privileges are lost until the period of suspension is complete

EXAMPLES OF VIOLATIONS (on or off campus and/or at any school sponsored event) may include but not limited to

1. Classroom/Campus Misbehaviors
2. Any type of abuse (electronic/social media, physical, verbal/written) towards others
3. Theft / Vandalism / Hazing
4. Use, possession, or distribution of Alcohol, Illegal Drugs, Tobacco, Vapes, Steroids
5. Any other misbehavior (serious or not) as determined by campus and/or athletic administration

CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS:

May include any combination of sport specific conditioning, community service, verbal reprimand, parent conference, written/verbal apology, restitution, game suspension for a time period or alternatives punishments determined by the head coach of that sport.

REPEATED and/or EGREGIOUS VIOLATIONS:

May include additional consequences stated above; **in addition, consideration for suspension from all athletics for a time period (up to one year) as determined by athletic administration.**

Upon determination that a student athlete has committed any violation above resulting in athletic discipline in addition to any school discipline, the head coach of the sport will make contact with the student athlete and guardian to explain the reason for which athletic discipline is being taken.

ATHLETIC PERIOD ENROLLMENT & OFF-SEASONS

Student athletes who have not participated in a sport by the end of the 4th six weeks may be removed from the athletic period. All athletes **MUST** participate in organized weight training and conditioning during the athletic period throughout the school year to enhance and develop their athletic ability. Varsity student athletes will report to their sport during the athletic period on game days at the discretion of the coaching staff. Seniors who participate in Football, Volleyball, Basketball, and Track **ARE** required to be in the athletic period workout until completion of those sports.

MULTIPLE SPORTS & SHARING STUDENT ATHLETES

Participation in multiple sports is encouraged as it creates cross-training and increases the ability for the student athlete to be more coachable. **No coach should discourage student athletes from participating in multiple sports.**

QUITTING A SPORT

There will be times when a student athlete finds it necessary to quit playing a sport before, during, or after the season. The following steps should be taken in order to quit a sport:

1. The student athlete should meet with the coach. If needed, the coach should also have a face to face conversation with the parents regarding this decision.
2. Return or pay for all equipment issued
3. **The head coach of the sport will let the school counselor know of any schedule change(s) that need to be made.**

A student athlete quitting a sport during the season may not participate in another sport until the end of the season of the sport he/she has quit **OR** mutual agreement by both sports head coaches..

****Upon dropping a sport, the student-athlete will still remain in the Borger athletic period unless a schedule change can be made by the head coach and counselor.**

Junior High student athletes who drop a sport will also remain in the athletic period. If the student athlete chooses to leave the athletic period, he/she may not be able to participate in athletics. If a student athlete is in two sports simultaneously, the student athlete may leave one sport with mutual consent from both head coaches of those sports.

MISSING GAMES, WORKOUTS, AND TARDINESS

Student athletes are expected to communicate to coach(es) if they are going to miss or be late to any activities. A student athlete who misses team activities may be expected to make up for the missed work. The makeup work must be done as quickly as possible. The head coach at their discretion, may delay the makeup work.

LETTER JACKETS

In order to receive an athletic letter jacket, the student athlete must qualify by Borger ISD criteria.

***Juniors that have not accrued enough points by the end of their junior year shall be measured and earned a letter jacket for their senior year if they have completed their junior year in good standing.**

ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT

School equipment checked out by the student athlete is his/her responsibility. All equipment should be kept in good condition. Coaches will launder equipment as needed. Request permission from the head coach before taking school issued equipment home.

ATHLETIC TRIPS

Student athletes are required to travel both to and from athletic contests in school transportation. Parents may request to have their student athlete return home with them following a contest. The parent must provide written notice that the student athlete will return home under their care. In extenuating circumstances and with prior written approval, a student athlete may be released to another adult.

While traveling on school transportation, student athletes are expected to

1. Follow the coach's expectations of travel
2. Show courtesy towards transportation staff and their rules
3. Clean up any and all trash left on school vehicles.

DRESS CODE/PERSONAL APPEARANCE

Student athletes who participate in any sport shall comply with the district's policy on dress and grooming and the coach's specific requirements for their sport.

UIL COMPLIANCE**AGE ELIGIBILITY**

1. Junior High -
 - a. 7th grade student athletes must not have turned 14 by September 1.
 - b. 8th grade student athletes must not have turned 15 by September 1.

8th grades student that are overage may participate in 9th grade athletics
2. High School-a student athlete must not have turned 19 years old on September 1 preceding the contest;

FIRST 6 WEEKS INITIAL ELIGIBILITY BASED ON CREDITS

- 7th, 8th, 9th year: student athlete must have been promoted from previous grade
- 10th grade year: student athlete must have earned at least 5 credits
- 11th grade year: student athlete must have earned at least 10 credits
- 12th grade year: student athlete must have earned at least 15 credits

NO PASS / NO PLAY

To be eligible to compete in extracurricular activities; a student athlete must pass all classes at the end of the 6 weeks grading period. ANY grade below 70 will eliminate a student athlete from competition for a three week period. If student athletes lose eligibility they are still expected to attend all practice sessions as if they were eligible.

IF at the end of the three-week progress report period, ALL GRADES ARE ABOVE 70, then the student-athlete will regain eligibility at the end of the following week waiting period. We will have tutorials for student athletes who are on the weekly failure list or assigned tutorials by teacher(s) for extra help as needed.

NO PASS/NO PLAY EXCEPTIONS

Students that are in certain classes as determined by Borger ISD may still compete even if they fail the class for the 6 weeks. Those classes are any College or Advanced Placement (AP) class/

Incompletes: If a student is given an "incomplete", they must fix the incomplete before they can compete.

**Additional UIL Rules and Regulations may be found in the TEA/UIL Side by Side

RESPONSIBILITIES OF BISD

1. Provide Transportation to and from athletic events
2. Provide Facilities, Supplies, and Equipment essential for our athletes to compete.
3. Safety and Development for addressing athlete care.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COACHES (including but not limited to)

1. Be up to date with current standards in athletics and the classroom
 - a. Student Athlete Safety and Skills
 - b. Be the best classroom teacher you can be
 - c. Demonstrate proper examples of sportsmanship for officials.
2. Have clear and open communication with
 - a. Student Athletes & Families
 - b. District Staff
 - c. Community
3. Emphasize academic / athletic integrity and success
 - a. Communicate with / NOT Harass teachers over grades
 - b. Work with students about assignments
4. Adhere to UIL/Borger ISD policies.
 - a. Schedule games, make travel arrangements, communicate any game changes
 - b. Complete Eligibility Forms
 - c. Interpretation of UIL rules and regulations
 - d. Care of Facilities and Equipment

PARENTS GENERAL INFORMATION

According to the UIL Website: Research shows those who participate in extra-curricular activities tend to make better grades and have fewer discipline problems than those who do not participate. Here are some statistics to keep in mind:

- There are over one million high school football players and almost one million basketball players in grades 9-12 nationally. Of those numbers, about 250 make it to the NFL, and about 50 make an NBA team.
- The odds of a high school football player being selected to play for an NFL team are about 6,000 to 1.
- The odds of a high school athlete competing in the NBA are even greater.
- The NCAA is made up of 977 schools classified in three divisions, and less than 25,000 student athletes compete for NCAA titles annually, most of whom are not on athletic scholarships.

With this in mind, it is important to focus on your student athlete's academic career in addition to their success on the playing field or court.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS

1. Support their student athlete to attend all practices/games, and not to miss these events other than for circumstances beyond their control.
2. Demonstrating courtesy and sportsmanship for teammates, coaches, and, officials win or lose
3. Help their student athlete take care of school issued equipment
4. Guide and support your student athlete thru the struggle of academics and athletics
 - Ask questions about their school work
 - Check their grades weekly (nobody wants any surprises!)
 - Verbal encouragement

STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE

Borger ISD has purchased an insurance policy that covers extra curricular activities. Our insurance company offers various policies. Brochures describing this policy and its costs are distributed at the beginning of each school year. It is important to note that school coverage is **SECONDARY** to any policy that the parents might have on the student athlete. However, if the student is not covered by a parent policy, this policy

becomes the primary policy. Please be advised that we cannot guarantee that our policy will pay for all medical expenses incurred during the treatment of an athletic injury. With the exception of emergencies, the athletic department must be notified, and the proper claim forms picked up before any treatment or doctor visit is scheduled for an athletic related injury. Otherwise, the insurance company may not pay the claim. Likewise, Borger ISD is not responsible for any medical expenses received while competing in an athletic activity..

RESOLVING CONFLICTS & CHAIN OF COMMAND

Communication is the key to resolving conflicts. We can't help solve problems if we don't know they exist. The chain of command in Borger ISD athletics will be as follows:

1. Student athlete face to face conversation with assistant/position coach
2. Student athlete conversation with head coach of sport.
3. Student athlete/parent conference w/ head coach of the sport.
4. Student athlete/parent/sport head coach with athletic administration.

Please note:

After a competition is not the time to have a conversation as emotions are running high on both sides of an issue. Please wait until cooler heads prevail, when more can be accomplished.

If the concern is regarding interpretation of a UIL rule. The athletic administration will work with you to make sure that all UIL procedures are followed.

Campus administration does not need to be contacted about athletic issues. Athletic administration will contact campus administration as the need arises to resolve potential issues.

PLAYING-TIME FOR ATHLETES

Middle School — All student athletes will get some playing time.

9th/JV- Student athletes will get playing time if possible.

Varsity — Playing time is not guaranteed.

Additional parent information not found in this handbook can be found in the UIL Parent Information Handbook found on the UIL website (www.uil texas.org)

FAN BEHAVIOR

1. Exhibit positive enthusiasm for the contest and Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place
2. 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.
3. Show respect for opposing players, coaches, spectators, and officials
4. Game officials can ask that school administrators have unruly fans removed from a contest facility and that the school can remove them from the contest and can prevent them from attending future contests due to undesirable behaviors.
5. Fans that have been removed may have to complete a Sportsmanship Training Program before attending future events.

ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUBS

Booster clubs assist the school in areas of fund-raising, voluntary help, and substantial fan support for athletic contests. Booster clubs aid in the development of the total programs of Borger ISD. Certain guidelines apply to the Booster Club:

1. All projects must be cleared with the athletic director.
2. The superintendent, principal, and/or the athletic director will have veto power over proposed activities.
3. Donations to the school cannot be earmarked for any particular item or use.
4. Cannot direct a coach or administrator in any of their duties.
5. Equipment and supplies purchased by the Booster Club for the athletic program become donations and become the property of the school district.
6. More information concerning the activities of booster clubs is available in the [UIL GUIDELINES FOR BOOSTER CLUBS](#) or can be accessed online at the University Interscholastic League website.

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I have read the athletic handbook and understand the policies of the athletic program. I agree to follow all rules and guidelines expressed in the handbook.

Athlete's Name: _____

Athlete's Signature: _____

Parent's Signature: _____