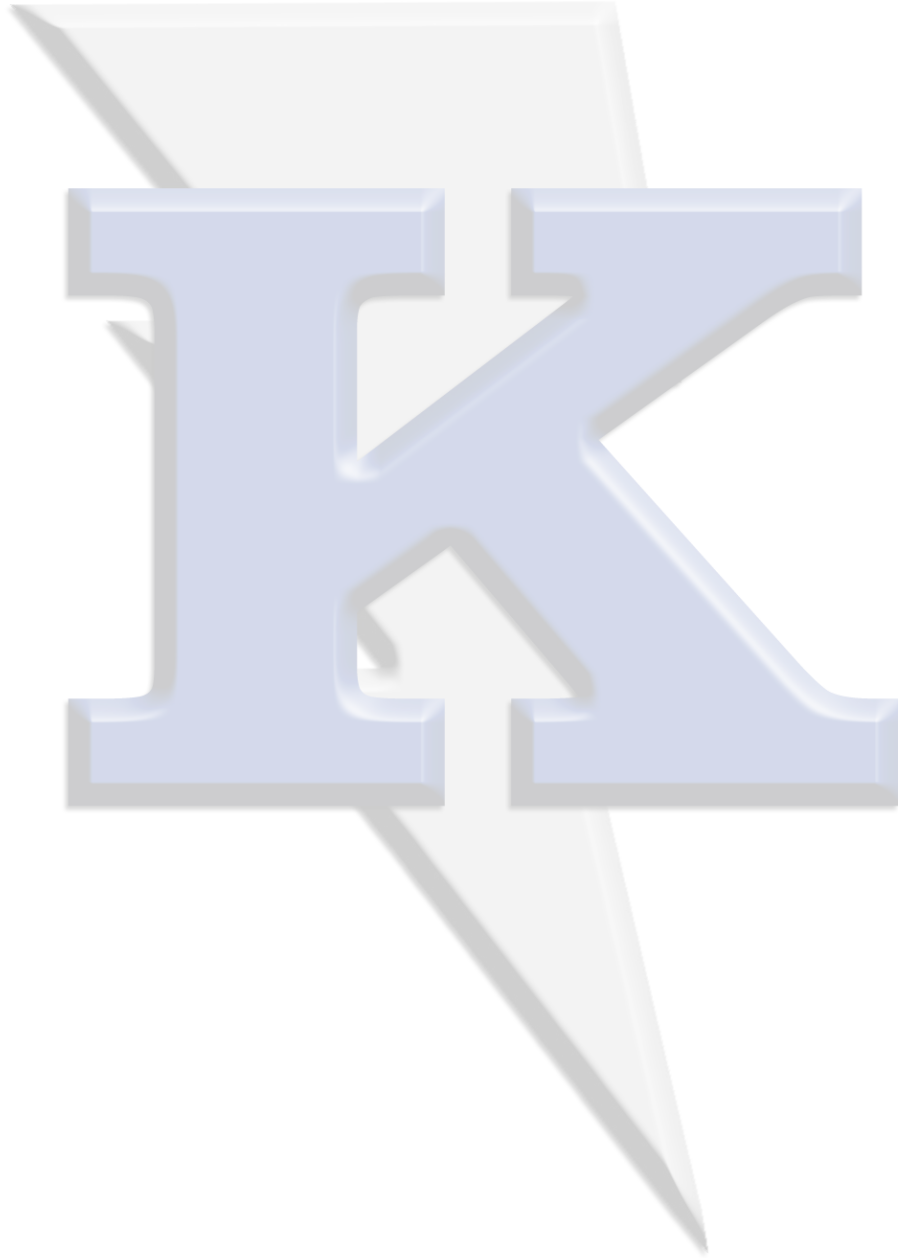


ATHLETIC CODE



KEENE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent – Ricky Stephens
High School Principal – Jarrett Morgan
Junior High Principal – Jamie Ingram
Athletic Director – John McFarlin
Assistant Athletic Director – Billy Coffin

KEENE ATHLETICS MISSION STATEMENT

With an emphasis on academic, athletic, personal, professional and social development and excellence, the Athletic Department will provide the support, environment and avenues to promote the mission of Keene Athletics and Keene ISD.

CORE VALUES

FAMILY

ACCOUNTABILITY

LOYALTY

DISCIPLINE

WORK ETHIC

ENTHUSIASM

EXPECTATIONS OF ATHLETES

1. Be on time, every time.
2. Be enthusiastic.
3. Be eager to work hard every day. No regrets.
4. Be a role model for your teammates and for the younger players.
5. Be academically eligible for all grading periods.
6. Practice self-discipline daily.
7. Focus on the goals of the TEAM.
8. Play the game for fun.
9. Be gracious when you win and graceful when you win.
10. Abide by the rules of the game.
11. Accept decisions made by those in authority.
12. Be accountable for your actions.
13. Develop a feeling of pride.
14. Develop a teachable spirit.
15. Follow the Code of Excellence: RESPECT, COMMITMENT, and CHARACTER.

EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS

1. Attend as many athletic events as possible.
2. Make the athletic experience positive.
3. View the game with team goals.
4. Encourage multiple-sport participation.
5. Accept the judgment of coaches and officials (inappropriate remarks to coaches and/or officials are subject to game suspensions of parents and/or parents).
6. Accept the results of the competition.
7. Demonstrate winning and losing with dignity.
8. Be an encourager and good listener.
9. Be a positive navigator for Keene Athletics and Keene ISD.
10. Accept the goals, roles, achievements of your child.
11. Be supportive before, during and after the contest.
12. Do not undermine the coaches, players and/or teams with negative comments.

EXPECTATIONS OF COACHES

1. Coach for the love and fun of the game.
2. The welfare of the athletes and program is over winning.
3. Accept the judgment of the officials.
4. Focus on effort and behavior as opposed to outcome.

5. Lead with RESPECT, COMMITMENT, and CHARACTER.
6. Focus on the program and team over the needs of individuals.
7. Work to improve knowledge and ability.
8. Hold athletes accountable.
9. Encourage multiple sport participation
10. Be flexible with parents and the needs of athletes.
11. Develop a positive-demanding coaching style.
12. Coach with poise, passion and confidence.
13. Refrain from inappropriate language / Tobacco products at school functions
14. Uphold professional appearance:
 - a. Clean cut
 - b. Practice appropriate dress-athletic attire
 - c. Cover tattoos at school functions

PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS

In order to meet the needs of society today, the role of athletics in the curriculum has changed considerably. Athletics serve to develop, through proper coaching techniques, the following objectives:

1. Teamwork – The coach seeks to develop attitudes of self-sacrifice, subordination of individual desires, courage, loyalty, devotion to a cause, and other attitudes that enhance the realization of a team effort. Working successfully with others is a practice that will help students for many years to come.
2. Sportsmanship – The coach seeks to teach proper moral and ethical patterns of conduct that will serve the athlete throughout life. Creating a positive environment and positive role models for the athlete will help to develop appropriate attitudes toward others.
3. Promote life time fitness – It is necessary to teach the benefits of being physically fit and how proper health habits will help to create a better quality of life and longevity.
4. Positive Attitudes – The coach should strive to develop proper attitudes toward victory and defeat. Athletes can learn many lessons from winning as well as losing. Learning how to face defeat can teach athletes many lessons. If an athlete has given their best effort, then he/she is truly a winner.
5. Setting goals - Athletics provides an excellent model for students to set goals for themselves and implement a plan to reach those goals. Athletics can provide this avenue for individual and team-oriented goals.
6. Self-discipline - Athletics instills self-discipline. Self-discipline is doing what needs to be done; when it needs to be done; and doing it the same way every time.

7. Responsibility - Knowing that each individual's actions will affect the people around him / her in a positive or negative way.
8. Accountability - Knowing that each individual's actions will affect themselves and that each individual must acknowledge and accept the consequences of their actions.

Athletics provides one of the finest ways in which our young people can develop into responsible men and women. Lessons can be learned in athletics that can assist young people in making appropriate decisions throughout life. Athletics serves to give students a positive focus on which to strive. Athletics is not a right, but a privilege. Athletes will be held to higher standards. Athletes are not entitled to special privileges, be thankful for the opportunities that have been presented to you.

ACADEMICS

All athletic programs in the Keene I.S.D. will be governed by eligibility and contest rules as listed in the Constitution and Contest Rules of the University Interscholastic League and rules governing extracurricular activities adopted by the State Board of Education and the State Legislature.

1. No Pass, No Play – Athletes must pass all classes with a 70% or above, on a scale of 100, at the end of each grading cycle to be eligible to participate. Failure to pass will result in the athlete being ineligible to participate in any contest from five working days after the end of the next grading cycle. If after fifteen working days from the athlete becoming ineligible, he/she is passing **ALL** classes (not just the class that was failed) then he/she regains eligibility. The ineligible athlete must still practice with the team during the ineligible period but may not travel, sit on the bench, or participate in any contest. Student-athletes that fail or are at risk of failing will be placed on academic probation. Any athlete placed on academic probation will be required to attend additional study hall and regular student planner checks. Continued academic problems can also result in disciplinary actions, suspension or dismissal from athletics.
2. Academic progress will be closely monitored. Coaches will check UIL reports and send out progress reports.
3. Student-athletes are required to follow class and school policies.
4. Be enthusiastic in the classroom; not just on the court. Academics are the gateway to your future.
5. Each student-athlete is responsible for organizing their academic schedule.

6. Mandatory tutorials / study hall is required by each student-athlete. Student-athletes must sign the tutorial sheet and are responsible for maintaining high academic standards.
7. Advanced classes eligibility criteria: Honors-60%, AP-60%, Dual Credit-60%.

DISCIPLINE

1. An athlete who does not maintain appropriate behavior in athletics or in the classroom is subject to be disciplined by the coaching staff.
2. A student who is suspended from school, placed in in-school suspension, or placed in an alternative behavior classroom for serious misconduct will not be permitted to participate in athletics until they have been reinstated in school. The practices/games they miss as a result of this will be treated as unexcused absences.
3. Any student found guilty of engaging in serious misconduct can be declared ineligible from participation in all extracurricular activities for a certain period of time to be determined by the coach and /or administration. Possible penalties include Code Reds, game suspension, suspension for the remainder of the semester, suspension for the remainder of that sport, and suspension for the remainder of the school year.
4. Any student arrested and convicted of a misdemeanor or indicted because of a felony resulting in probation or parole may be suspended from all athletic events for the duration of the probation or parole. In addition to this, the athlete may be removed from the athletic program for the remainder of the school year or permanently if deemed necessary by the coach and administration.
5. If an athlete is ejected from a contest by the officials for misconduct, that player may not be allowed to participate in the next contest. If more than one ejection occurs, the athlete may be subject to further disciplinary action.
6. Code Reds are physical reprimands that are administered by the coaches of that particular sport. The severity of the reprimand may depend on the coaches and the severity of the misconduct. High level discipline issues will be decided by a discipline committee of coaches, athletic director and administrator.

Levels of Discipline:

- 1) Code Red-Level 1
- 2) Code Red-Level 2
- 3) Code Red-Level 3
- 4) 3 Strike Policy (see dismissal from athletics)

- 5) Suspension from contest
- 6) Suspension from season
- 7) Suspension from athletics

Without discipline, winning cannot take place. Success begins and ends with discipline.

DISMISSAL FROM ATHLETICS

If an athlete is removed from the athletic program by the coach for violations of the student handbook, or athletic code then they must receive permission from the coaching staff to reenter the athletic program. Removal from athletics is governed by the three-strike policy. On the third strike the athlete is removed from athletics and can only be reinstated by the coaching staff. The athlete is required to sign a form for documentation when a strike is administered followed by parent contact. Each strike is carried from one sport to the next the entire year. The next year begins a new set of strikes. If an athlete without any strikes commits an offense that is worthy of direct dismissal from athletics; the coaches of that athlete and the athletic director will meet to determine the consequences.

Strikes are as followed:

- verbal / physical confrontation with teammates
- disqualification from a game
- excessive absences / tardiness
- excessive classroom disturbances
- disrespectful to coaches, teachers, students, or administrators
- excessive misconduct of athletic code or student hand book
- excessive academic failure
- inappropriate behavior detrimental to the team

QUITTING

Once an athlete decides to join a sport. The athlete relinquishes the authority to make their own decision on no longer participating in that sport. If an athlete no longer wants to participate in the current sport a meeting will be held involving the current coach, the upcoming sport coach and athletic administration to determine the best solution for the team and the athletic program. If the athlete refuses to comply with the decision made by the committee of coaches, they are subject to removal from the athletic program.

Removal from the athletic period can only occur by a counseling session with coaches, parents, and / or administrators.

COMMUNITY

Keene athletes will be expected to take an active role in the community. You must represent your school, coaches and teammates in a classy and dignified manner. Keene athletes will actively support our feeder schools and local events.

DRESS CODE

All athletes are expected to exhibit and maintain an appropriate appearance at all times. Our athletes are expected to reflect a neat and respectable image and conduct themselves with the utmost class and character. In addition to the school dress code and all other district rules and guidelines, all athletes are expected to follow the appropriate guidelines listed below.

Boys

1. Hair (including facial hair) must look neat and presentable (coach's discretion).
2. No jewelry will be worn during practice or contest.
3. While traveling with the team, hats and bandanas will not be worn and shirttails will be tucked in (coach's discretion).
4. Any styles that the coach feels to be inappropriate or is a distraction will not be tolerated.
5. Wearing t-shirts, athletic shorts, flip flops and house shoes is strongly discouraged.
6. Collar shirts, nice pants or shorts, and nice shoes are strongly encouraged.
7. Dress for success Mondays!

Girls

1. No clothing will be worn that reveals any undergarments such as tank tops with large arm holes or loose fitting.
2. Hair will be kept out of eyes in an appropriate manner.
3. While traveling with the team, hats and bandannas will not be worn and shirttails will be tucked in (coach's discretion).
4. No jewelry will be worn during practice or contests.
5. Any styles that the coach feels to be inappropriate or is a distraction will not be tolerated.
6. Dress for success Mondays!

ABSENCES

A student must be in attendance on the day of an event or the last day of the week for a weekend event in order to participate in the contest. Extensive circumstances

will be reviewed by the principal and athletic director on a case by case basis to determine participation.

Unexcused absences will result in disciplinary actions from the coach of that sport resulting in a Code Red and/or game suspension.

Each student-athlete is required to contact the coaching staff in case of an absence. The coaching staff is working to teach each student-athlete responsibility and how to communicate.

Make every effort to attend school and practice!

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

No student will be permitted to participate in any practice, scrimmage, or contest until copies of the following documents are on file with the coach and/or Athletic Director.

1. Signed athletic physical / medical history form
2. Signed U.I.L. acknowledgement of rules form
3. Signed parent/guardian approval form
4. Signed emergency form
5. Signed code of conduct acknowledgement
6. Parent and Student Notification / Agreement Form Illegal Steroid Use
7. Concussion / return to play acknowledgement form
8. Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form

SPORTS PARTICIPATION

Keene student-athletes are encouraged to participate in multiple sports throughout the year in order to make the Keene Athletic Program as competitive as possible. Keene student-athletes that are in the athletic period will be required to participate in an in-season sport or offseason / performance training program the entire year. Keene students-athletes that participate in volleyball, basketball, baseball, softball, track, cross country and / or soccer must be in the athletic period in order to enhance skill development.

Keene ISD Sport List:

1. Cross Country
2. Football(boys)
3. Volleyball (girls)
4. Basketball
5. Track
6. Baseball (HS boys)

7. Softball (HS girls)
8. Tennis (HS)
9. Golf (HS)
10. Swimming (Must have approval from athletic administration)

COMMUNICATION

Parenting and coaching are extremely difficult positions. By establishing a strong line of communication, the parents and coaches can provide greater benefits to the student-athletes. Communicating practice and game schedules is very important to the Keene ISD coaching staff. Schedules and events will be posted on Keene ISD website under the athletic portal. Parents can also join the Keene Athletics team app to receive athletic schedules and events. Go to the app store and download Team App. Register under the Keene Chargers and get connected to athletic events.

Communication - Coach

1. Expectations of student-athletes.
2. Locations and times of practices and athletic events.
3. Discipline of student-athlete pertaining to suspension from contest or athletics.
4. Team requirements: equipment, UIL forms, physicals etc....

Communication - Parents

1. Conflict Resolution Chain of Command:
 - a. Coach-Athlete
 - b. Coach-Athlete-Parent
 - c. Coach-Athletic Director-Parent-Athlete
 - d. Coach-Athletic Director-Principal-Parent
 - e. Coach-Athletic Director-Superintendent-Parent
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts.
3. Any issues concerning student-athletes that the coach should be informed about.

Coaches are professionals. They make decisions based on what is best for the team in relation to work ethic, attitude, practice, games, academics... Two topics that will not be discussed with a parent are playing time and/or other students.

If a situation arises that requires a conference between coach and parent; the parent needs to call the coach during school hours and arrange an appointment to speak

with the coach. The parent must not try to meet with a coach before or after an athletic contest. Those situations usually tend to promote a negative outcome.

ATHLETIC TRAINER

Keene ISD Athletic Trainer is an amazing resource to help facilitate the evaluation, treatment and return to play of Keene student-athletes. The athletic trainer is available every day for evaluation, treatment, and rehabilitation of athletic injuries. The role of the athletic trainer is to determine if an injury is in need of medical attention by a physician. It is very important the athlete sees the athletic trainer to help with this decision. It can save the athlete and his/her parent/guardian time and money. Once the decision has been made, the athletic trainer will help facilitate a visit with a physician to ensure the proper care is being provided. If the injury does not require the attention of a physician, then all necessary treatment and rehabilitation will be done by the athletic trainer. Athletic injury, treatment and rehab protocol:

1. Athletes report to the coach at the beginning of workout.
2. Coach will send an athlete to the trainer to get evaluated.
3. Trainer will evaluate the athlete.
4. Trainer determines athletic status.
5. Coach will be notified on the status of the athlete. Documentation on Google Team Drive under Athletic Training.
6. Parents will be contacted if the athlete cannot participate in workouts or competition.
7. If the athlete is restricted from workout or competition; the athlete is still required to arrive at workout on time, dress out in workout gear, report to coach, report to trainer for treatment and return to team in workout gear.

HAZING / BULLYING

Hazing is 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 is to include other students. The term includes but is not limited to:

1. Physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, placing 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 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 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.

Bullying includes these elements:

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.

Any of these offenses may range in game(s) suspensions to expulsion from athletics.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Students are responsible for their conduct at all times. 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 KISD Administration and Coaching Staff. Keene ISD athletes could be subject to random drug tests.

Possession or consumption of any illegal substance or alcohol will be subject to suspension from competition or suspension from athletics depending on:

1. Severity of the violation.
2. If the violation happened during or after a school related activity.
3. If the violation is a recurrence.
4. If the substance is illegal or legal.
5. The violator's honesty about the incident.

Order of consequences:

1. 30 days 1st offense
2. Semester 2nd offense
3. Career 3rd offense

The Head Coach of the sport in season, the Athletic Director and Administration will decide the proper consequences for the violation of policies.

STUDENT-ATHLETE DROP OFF / PICK UP

Keene Athletic procedures for pick up and drop off are extremely important in ensuring the safety and supervision of the Keene ISD student-athletes.

HIGH SCHOOL DROP OFF / PICK UP

High School athletes are to be dropped off and picked up at the KISD field house in the parking lot directly by field house west entrance.

Student-athletes are required to wait under the overhang of the west side of the field house. Student-athletes will wait inside the field house in the case of inclement weather until rides arrive.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL DROP OFF / PICK UP

Junior High School athletes to be picked up at the front entrance of the Junior High Campus. Student-athletes will be required to wait inside JH at the athletic foyer located at the JH concession stand.

Student-athletes are to wait inside the designated pick up area in order to ensure a safe and supervised environment. Student-athletes that are walking home are required to transition off campus as designated by the supervising coach.

Student-athletes need to be picked up after athletic events in a timely manner.

Student-athletes that are not picked up in a timely manner on a regular basis will not be allowed to travel with athletic teams to away events.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation to all school related events will be provided by bus or van. All athletes must ride to the contest and back to school in the bus or van with the rest of the team. If the parent needs to transport an athlete to or from an event the parent must make prior arrangements with the coach and must sign a travel release form. In the event of an emergency, an athlete may ride home with his/her parent, but must sign the travel release form. Athletes will not be released to any person other than the parent unless the parent makes prior arrangements with the coach releasing their child to another adult. Upon arriving back to the school from an athletic contest, it will be the responsibility of the athlete to find transportation home. A phone will be provided for the student to make arrangements for transportation home. The school and coaches do not assume any responsibility if a student chooses to ride home with another student or walk home.

CRISIS / INCLEMENT WEATHER PLAN AND PROCEDURES

1) Severe rain, hail and lightning

- a) Track: Evacuate to indoor facility and in a secure area away from windows and doors.
 - b) Gym / FH: Remain in a secure facility moving away from windows and doors.
 - c) Baseball Field: Visiting team evacuate to bus for protection from elements; Home team evacuate to dugout storage area for protection from elements.
 - d) Softball Field: Teams evacuate to concession stand for protection from elements
 - e) Lightning crisis determined by athletic trainer; wait 30 min after 20 mile or less strike.
- 2) Tornado
- a) Gym / FH / Track: Athletes transition to HS 200 hallway and fill classrooms; overflow to interior 100 hallway.
 - b) Baseball Field: Visiting team evacuate to bus for protection from elements; Home team evacuate to dugout storage area for protection from elements.
 - c) Softball Field: Teams evacuate to concession stand for protection from elements
- 3) Active Killer
- a) If you get the ALICE call, evacuate to a safe area off campus.
 - b) HS Gym, FH, Track: Evacuate to tree line east of track.
 - c) Baseball Field: Evacuate to tree line of Rex Callicott Park.
 - d) Softball Field: Evacuate to tree line.
 - e) JH Gym: Evacuate to Accents Warehouse-4th street.
- * Campus rally point - Accent Warehouse; Off campus rally point-Keene PD

*Never prop any door open for any reason; safety is compromised allowing outside influences in safety of school.

LETTERING POLICY

Each athlete is awarded points for participation in each sport. The lettering criteria:

- 10 points to receive a letter jacket
- 2 points for varsity participation
- 1 point for junior varsity participation
- 1 point for golf
- 1 point for team or individual advancing past district
- 1 point for serving as a manager for every sport

Varsity criteria:

Cross Country

- run varsity for district, regional or state
- coach discretion

Basketball / Volleyball / Baseball / Softball

- must play varsity during majority of district games
- coach discretion

Track

- run varsity district, area, regional or state
- coach discretion

Tennis

- medal at district meet
- regional qualifier
- coach discretion

Golf

- compete in district meet
- coach discretion

Cheer

- must participate for 2 years
- must participate in $\frac{3}{4}$ of scheduled practices
- must participate in $\frac{3}{4}$ of scheduled games

*Any athlete that does not complete the entire season will not receive credit for that sport. In order to receive a letter jacket, an athlete must be in good standing with the Keene Athletic Department.

Student and Parent / Legal Guardian

Keene ISD Athletic Code

Acknowledgement and Consent Form

The Keene ISD Athletic Code will be posted and revised as deemed on the Keene ISD website. Parents and student athletes are responsible for understanding and following procedures and policies of the Athletic Code.

I understand the policies of the Keene ISD Athletic Code and realize that I will be responsible for complying with all policies of the Keene Athletic Department.

“I understand and consent to the responsibilities outlined in the KISD Athletic Code. My child shall be held accountable for the behavior and consequences outlined in the Athletic Code at school, at school sponsored and school related activities, during school sponsored travel, and for any school related misconduct, regardless of time or location. I understand that any student who violates the Athletic Code shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including referral criminal prosecution for violations of law.”

Student Printed Name

Student Signature

Parent Name Printed

Parent Signature

Date