

Revised 8/15/2021

## PEASTER ISD ATHLETIC CODE

Participation in the athletic program and/or UIL contests is NOT A RIGHT BUT A PRIVILEGE. No student is required to take part in the contests or activities. Therefore, it is important that all students taking part in the program understand and conform to the rules therein and that the coaches of the sport or activities have every right to remove these privileges. Decisions made by the Athletic Director regarding the athletic program, team rules, athlete expectations, playing time, strategy, philosophy, and program structure are final and cannot be appealed unless it involves an illegal activity or constitutionally protected right. Chain of command is expected and is the most efficient way for concerns to be addressed. Parents' concerns must originate with the head coach, then proceed to the Athletic Director, if resolution is not reached. Concerns may be shared with the Superintendent after a meeting with the Athletic Director has been held and a resolution has not been reached.

### ELIGIBILITY

- 1) A student who receives, at the end of any grading period, a grade below 70 in any class may not participate in extracurricular activities for three school weeks. An ineligible student will be required to continue to practice. The student regains eligibility after the seven calendar day waiting period has ended following a grading period or the three school week evaluation period when the principal or teachers determine that he or she has earned a passing grade (70 or above) in all classes.
- 3) An ineligible athlete will practice with other students, but may not participate in a competition.
- 4) Ineligible athletes shall not travel with the school to a contest, sit with them, or wear uniforms during the contest.
- 5) If an athlete is suspended from school for ANY reason, he/she will be ineligible during that period of suspension. A second suspension may result in total expulsion from all activities for the remainder of the school year.
- 6) If an athlete is dismissed from the athletic program for disciplinary reasons, he/she may return to the athletic program at the end of one calendar year from the date of dismissal once a parent conference has been completed. Athletes that return will not be guaranteed a spot on a particular team because of classification.

### ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, NICOTINE, AND ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES

Peaster ISD Athletic Department does not condone the use of alcohol, tobacco/nicotine products, or illegal substances at any time (during the school year or in the summer). Neither do we condone the attendance at events, parties, or gatherings where alcohol, tobacco/nicotine products, and/or any illegal substances are being served to young people under the legal age limit. Alcohol, tobacco/nicotine products, and illegal substances pose a danger to the health and safety of all student athletes. This abuse damages the reputation of all students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Therefore, it is the intent of this policy to prevent the illegal use of alcohol, tobacco/nicotine, and any illegal substances with our athletes.

Athletes who violate this section of the athletic code shall be subject to disciplinary action depending on the nature of the offense. Accusations will be **turned over to the proper authorities**. District athletic disciplinary options include using one or more of the following actions and **will be administered in addition to any school disciplinary actions**.

If found guilty of abusing alcohol, tobacco/nicotine products, or any illegal substances during season, out of season, or in the summer:

1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Coach's discretion: players may make up any lost practice time with conditioning; players may be required to sit out during competition(s), if deemed appropriate. Players can also be removed from the athletic program depending on the offense. Parent communication will be required, and student/parent will sign a level one probationary behavior expectations contract.

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Coach's discretion: players shall be suspended for the next three (3) weeks of athletic contests in which he/she participates. It is recommended that before being readmitted, the student show evidence of seeking chemical counseling as appropriate. Players can also be removed from the athletic program depending on the offense. Parent conference will be required for athlete to continue, and student/parent will sign a level two probationary behavior expectation contract.

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: Coach's discretion: the athlete will be dismissed from the athletic program **for one calendar year**. It is recommended that before being readmitted, the student show evidence of seeking chemical counseling as appropriate. A mandatory parent conference with the Athletic Director and head coach of each sport the student wishes to participate in must be conducted.

Penalties shall be cumulative, continuing throughout the student's participation in the school's athletic program.

## CONDUCT

Athletes represent our school and are expected to follow the rules set forth in the PISD handbook and the Athletic Code. Anytime an athlete is on a school sponsored activity (this includes on the bus to and from games, and before and after home and away games) and does not abide by the rules set forth in the handbook and code, the athlete is subject to the following punishments at the coach's discretion:

- Physical Activity
- Placement down the personal chart (i.e. losing a starting position)
- Sitting out a minimum of 1 game
- Placement on a different team (ex: Varsity to JV, JV to Fresh, A to B)
- Dismissal from team or athletic program

1) On the playing surface, an athlete must never use profanity or resort to illegal tactics. Both winning and losing are a part of the game, and one must be a good loser as well as a gracious winner.

2) Total respect to officials is an absolute must. The head coach, or his/her designees, will be the only one to discuss calls made by officials. Any behavior contrary to the above mentioned or any other act, which is not conducive to good sportsmanship may result in removal from the team.

3) Coach's discretion: If any athlete is caught stealing, he/she may be removed from the athletic program on the spot. Reimbursement of the stolen goods will be required. The incident will also be reported to the proper authorities. If the act of stealing is brought into question, and investigated by the appropriate authorities, only a level of preponderance is needed by the Athletic Director and/or investigation authority to recommend removal from the program.

4) Any act of disrespect by an athlete to his/her teacher, coach, member of the school administration, parent, member of the community, or staff will be handled on an individual basis as deemed appropriate by the coach of the particular sport that the athlete is involved in at that time. Punishment may call for expulsion from all athletic activities for a calendar year from date of incident. The incident may be reported to the proper authorities.

## **APPEARANCE/GROOMING**

All athletes will follow the student code of conduct with regard to dress code; this includes but is not limited to the following: Males will keep their hair out of their eyes and off their shoulders. Males will not have piercings of any kind (earrings, nose rings etc...). Females may not have facial piercings (nose rings, etc.) All athletes will wear the attire they are issued by their coaches for practice and contests.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Athletes are held accountable for any social media posted that portrays a disregard for any of the above-mentioned violations, including disrespecting his/her teacher, coach, member of the school administration, parent, member of the community, staff, or teammates. If the head coach determines, and the Athletic Director concurs, that a social media post should be removed by an athlete due to the post causing discord on the team, damaging the team's image, portraying the team and/or school in a way that is deemed inappropriate, or causes (or potentially causes) physical, mental, emotional, or psychological harm to a fellow student, parent, school administrator, coach, staff member, or community member, the student will have 12 hours to comply. Non-compliance may indicate the athlete's choice to quit athletics. See the section regarding quitting for further information. If the athlete complies, further disciplinary actions may be taken accordingly.

## **PARTICIPATION**

One of the great life lessons that athletics teaches is the value of commitment: commitment to a team, commitment to goals selected by that team, and commitment to something bigger than oneself. The concept of commitment to the team is an absolute, non-negotiable requirement of every team member, if a team is to reach its full potential.

The Peaster Coaching Staff has a united philosophy that each and every student-athlete that desires to participate on a Peaster ISD sports team must make a commitment to that team. This commitment is an understanding that each athlete will be expected to attend and give their best in every practice, weight session, film session, team meeting, and game/competition. The exceptions to this rule are (but are not limited to):

If a student is a member of conflicting school activities, the decision becomes the responsibility of the student to communicate with all parties involved.

## **COMPETITION**

In the event a student athlete misses a PISD Athletic Contest, practice, team meeting, weight session, to participate in CLUB, SELECT, AAU or any other outside organizations activities, the athlete may then be released from that team for the remainder of that season. If released, the athlete would not be eligible to participate in another school sponsored sport until team participation in that sport ends.

## **PRACTICE**

Missing practice, weight sessions, film sessions, and team meetings is unacceptable. The make-up activities will be at the discretion of the coach. If an athlete demonstrates a pattern of missing multiple practices, they may be released from that program for the remainder of that season. If released, the athlete would not be eligible to participate in another school sponsored sport until team participation in that sport ends. If a student/athletes attendance is an issue, they may be removed from the athletic program entirely.

1) Each team member will be expected to attend every practice and game. Absences should be discussed with your coach. Regardless of the excuse, a team member will do make-up work to meet the coach's requirement. This is to regain endurance, not as punishment.

2) The only way an athlete can earn a letter is to play the required quarters, innings, etc., and finish the season. If an athlete fails and does not finish the season, they will not earn a letter.

3) If injury occurs before the season is completed, it will be left up to the discretion of the coaches as to who will letter.

4) It will be left up to the discretion of the coaches whether or not to award a letter to a student manager, filmer.

5) Athletes are encouraged to participate in ALL THREE junior high sports (Boys: football, basketball, track) (Girls: Volleyball, Basketball, Track) Tennis and Cross country are also available in junior high and continue into high school.

6) Ninth graders will be required to participate in a fall sport in order to be in the athletic class in the fall. We will not offer offseason in the fall for 9<sup>th</sup> graders, all sports with the exception of Track, Cross Country, and football make cuts. Therefore, it is not in the student's best interest to "put all their eggs in one basket" for a spring sport that they may be cut in. If that is the case, that would result in that athlete not participating in athletics for an entire year. Fall sports available: Cross Country, Tennis, Volleyball, Football, Basketball. We encourage ALL athletes to participate in multiple sports, our staff will work with them if there are sports that overlap (practices, tryouts, etc.). The Peaster High School Coaching staff does not recommend a student specialize in one sport. The Greyhound/Lady Greyhound Coaching staff is committed to developing the total athlete. This will give each athlete the opportunity to compete at a high level and give them the best opportunity for success.

7) Quitting is unacceptable and is a very serious decision. It affects many different people. This decision should not be made by an athlete or accepted by a coach in the heat of the moment. Upon notification of intention to quit, the student will have a consultation with the coach involved, and parents will be contacted to verify the athlete's intention. It will be the coach's discretion to allow the student to come back at a later date; those that quit need to understand that their decision is most likely permanent.

8) It is understood that coaches may release a player at any time due to numbers, for discipline reasons, or if the player is fundamentally behind in skills. Coaches also can release an athlete who fails two consecutive grading cycles or proves to be in constant grade trouble.

In the event a student athlete misses a practice or competition, the following consequences or punishment may be administered:

- Make up practice
- Physical activity
- Sitting out 1 or more games
- Change in team placement
- Loss of position on the Depth Chart
- Dismissal from the team for the remainder of the season
- Dismissal from the athletic program for 1 calendar year.

## **GRADE CHECK**

Coaches will perform grade checks on each athlete regardless of skill level or grade level. Grade checks will take place every 2 weeks once the school year begins.

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**REQUIREMENTS TO LETTER (In any one year, an athlete must complete the season).**

FOOTBALL- Play in 20 quarters which is the equivalent to 5 games.

VOLLEYBALL - 25 varsity games of the matches scheduled

BASKETBALL - 30 quarters of varsity games

CROSS COUNTRY – Run in District Meet and 50% of Invitational Meets in the varsity division

TRACK - 1 point in district or 5 points during the year in the varsity division

GOLF – Play in the district tournament and 50% of the invitational tournaments in the varsity division

TENNIS - Must win 2 matches during the season or 1 match at district in the varsity division

POWERLIFTING – Must be a regional qualifier

BASEBALL - Must play in 25 innings of varsity play

SOFTBALL - Must play in 25 innings of varsity play

MANAGER/FILMER – Coaches discretion

**AWARD POLICY**

1) An athlete will receive 1 jacket (not to exceed the UIL limit in cost) at the time they meet all letter requirements, and they complete the season.

2) Athletes will receive only one jacket during the 4 competitive years of High School. Athletes may letter in multiple sports throughout high school, however they will only receive one jacket. If the athlete only participates in one sport and is cut from that sport, they would NOT be eligible for a letter jacket.

Note: Additional requirements may be added if they are needed for more activities.

**Please sign and return:**

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE PISD ATHLETIC CODE.  
I AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE RULES SET FORTH IN THE  
CODE and TEAM RULES set forth by the coach.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date