

# **Santa Anna ISD Athletic Handbook**



# **Santa Anna's ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**

## **Introduction**

This handbook communicates important information concerning athletic policies and procedures to our parents and students. The Santa Anna ISD School Board has approved the policies, procedures, and regulations in this handbook. The athletic handbook is designed to coexist with the Santa Anna ISD Student Handbooks and the Santa Anna's Student Code of Conduct. Student athletes in grades 7-12 are accountable and responsible to the rules and requirements contained within this handbook. After reviewing this information, we ask that the parents and student sign the receipt page in the back of the Handbook and turn it into his/her head coach.

Anything not covered in this Athletic Handbook will be left to the judgment of the Athletic Director. It should be noted that different sports might have additional rules and regulations that go beyond what is listed in this athletic handbook. If such rules exist, they must be in writing and submitted to the athletes. All such rules must be submitted to the athletic director for approval.

## **PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS**

### **Mission Statement**

*The mission of Santa Anna I.S.D. Athletics is to provide a safe and competitive athletic environment, while promoting and embodying the ideals of teamwork, sportsmanship, hard work and self-discipline.*

The athletic program at Santa Anna ISD is an integral part of the total educational program. Athletics are a vital part of the physical, mental, social, and moral growth of our students. Athletics are not designed to transcend the academic program but to supplement it. Athletic programs can provide valuable lessons for practical situations. Student-athletes experience daily victories discovering within themselves the ability to overcome adversity, to develop leadership skills, to develop winning attitudes, to be hard workers, and to be a part of a team that requires sacrifice and service to others. Many intangibles are taught in athletics that become lifelong lessons for the student athlete.

### **Sports Offered at Santa Anna ISD:**

Girls and Boys Cross Country  
Football  
Girls and Boys Basketball  
Girls and Boys Track & Field  
Softball  
Girls and Boys Tennis

## **Responsibilities**

Participation in athletics is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, to the sport, to the student body, to the community, and to oneself. Athletics is not a guaranteed right to every student. If one chooses to participate in athletics, one accepts certain responsibilities. With these responsibilities will come valuable lessons which will enhance one's potential for success in later life.

Specific Responsibilities Expected of Santa Anna Athletes:

1. Maintain a satisfactory citizenship and behavior record in the classroom and on campus by treating teachers, administrators, and fellow students with respect.
2. Maintain passing grades in all classes.
3. Exercise self-control and display positive actions during competition and other school activities.
4. Have respect for the decisions of the officials during competition.
5. Refrain from juvenile behavior in and around the school buildings.
6. Be a law-abiding citizen both at school and away from school.
7. Display sportsmanship and class when representing Santa Anna ISD.
8. Be committed to attend practices, contests, and meetings of any sport that they choose to participate in.
9. Abide by training rules established in this handbook and by their coach.
10. Complete required UIL and school paperwork prior to participation.

Athletics is not about winning games or getting athletic scholarships to college; athletics is about teaching the value of dedication, commitment, goal setting, hard work, fair play, sportsmanship, teamwork, and sacrifice. If one will live up to the standards set by the athletic department, athletics can and will serve as an outstanding extension of academics.

## **Treatment of Officials**

The Santa Anna 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 that could result to the school's athletic program if misbehavior of spectators is reported to the UIL.

## **Santa Anna 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 noisemakers 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.*

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 Santa Anna 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 yourselves 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. The officials are doing their best to help promote you and your sport. 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.
- **Ejections** – Per UIL: *“Players ejected from a contest are now subject to an automatic penalty. For football, the ejected player misses the rest of the game in which they were ejected plus the first half of the following game. Local school districts and/or UIL District Executive Committees may increase the suspension and/or apply additional penalties. Disqualifications as a result of targeting are for the remainder of the game only.”* Athletics is a great way to learn patience, respect and how to handle adversity. Athletes must learn how to ignore verbal and physical actions intended to incite anger or fighting. It is also important for athletes to maintain control when an official makes a call. They may not agree with the call but outbursts or arguing will not change the outcome of the call and will only make matters worse. Fans can also become out of control in an attempt to distract players. It is important for athletes to stay focused on what they need to do to be successful in the game/sport. The ability to suppress those feelings or turn that anger into motivation to play better will become a great tool as an adult.

- In addition to the UIL mandated policy on ejections, Santa Anna ISD athletes, of any sport will incur a minimum 1 game suspension in addition to being ejected from the game in which the offense occurred. If ejected during a tournament, the athlete will be allowed to continue practice but will NOT be allowed to continue participation in the tournament. If the incident occurs during the last game of a tournament, the athlete will be suspended for a minimum of the 1<sup>st</sup> game following the tournament.
- In keeping with Santa Anna ISD’s high standards of moral character, athletes who are ejected must also write a sincere letter of apology to the school/player/official/coach/or spectator before being allowed to participate in another event. This letter must be provided to the Santa

Anna ISD Athletic Director for approval. Athletes will not be allowed to participate in a game until a letter from the athlete is received and approved by the Athletic Director.

- **Second Ejection:** If an athlete receives a second ejection within a school calendar year, they will be deemed habitual. A committee will then be assembled including any combination of Athletic Director, Superintendent, Principal, Coaches, and Teachers, to determine what corrective action needs to be taken to prevent further infractions. A mandatory parent/guardian meeting with the committee must also take place to insure parents/guardians are aware of what is expected of the athlete in order to continue participation in athletic events. The goal of the committee will be to remove the behavior not the athlete. The athlete will be considered on probation and allowed to practice unless his/her attendance is determined to be detrimental to the team by the Head Coach or Athletic Director. The athlete will NOT be allowed to participate in future games until the committee has unanimously agreed the athlete is ready.
- **Third Ejection:** A third ejection within a school calendar year will lead to an automatic suspension from all athletic activities and functions including practice for the remainder of the current school calendar year. The student will not be allowed to participate in athletic events until the following school calendar year. Additional outside of school services and help may be offered to parents as a means to provide the student with tools needed to control behavior causing ejections.
- In some circumstances an athlete may only be defending himself/herself from an attack. In this moment punching or kicking another player may seem justified to stop an attack, but walking away will almost always stop a fight from happening. Retaliating will result in a player getting ejected. Walking away will also give officials and coaches a window to subdue the attacker and remove them from play. No action before, during or after a game is worth fighting over. Any retaliation by an athlete, directly involved or otherwise, at an event or practice will be reviewed for possible disciplinary action.

## **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.**

## ATHLETICS CLASS

Athletics is a state-approved course offered by Santa Anna ISD. Students may receive credit by successfully completing the following basic requirements:

1. Attend class regularly and promptly. Students must participate in the actual class period. Students must be directly supervised by the coach and are not allowed to leave to go to another classroom, library, computer lab, etc. Please schedule make-up work and tutorials for other classes outside of the athletics class period.
2. Dress out every day in school-issued clothing and/or equipment. Students unable to physically participate are still required to dress out and participate mentally. (Some injuries may not allow the athlete to dress out. If there is a question, the Head Coach will make the decision on the athlete dressing out or not for workout).
3. All students will be enrolled in athletics on the first day of classes in the fall, and will remain in athletics for the whole year. **If a student gets out of athletics they will not be allowed to be come back in to athletics till the next school year. We will not have students getting in and out of athletics during the year. Once you are in, you are in for the year, or out for the year.**

### Attendance

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.

#### *Game Day Attendance:*

Student-Athletes must attend all of their scheduled classes on the day of the athletic contest to be considered eligible for that contest. All exceptions will be under the consideration of the Athletic Director/Principal/Superintendent.

#### *Excused Absences:*

Excused absences will be made up. The make up for an excused absence is not punishment but is administered so that the athlete can make up missed work and conditioning. Examples of excused absences are illness, a death in the family, school sponsored activities, or emergency situations. **Athletes should understand that when they have to miss, it is imperative that a coach be notified prior to the absence.** The high school athletic number is 325-348-3137 ext. 225. If you cannot reach anyone at the high school athletic number, you may call the high school office and leave a message for the coaches. 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.

#### *Unexcused Absences:*

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 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. Unexcused absences will be made up and disciplinary action will be taken also. Disciplinary action for unexcused absences will be as follows:

1st unexcused absence – make up work plus additional disciplinary exercise

2nd unexcused absence – make up work plus suspension from the next contest

3rd unexcused absence – make up work plus suspension from multiple contests

4<sup>th</sup> unexcused absence – dismissal from the sport

Unexcused absences will accumulate on a per sport/per season basis.

*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 trainer for treatment. (Some injuries may not allow the athlete to dress out or attend practice. If there is a question, the head coach will make the decision on the athlete dressing out or attending the workout).

*Ineligible Athletes:*

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

*ISS:*

An athlete placed in ISS is not allowed to participate in a game or contest during his/her placement, but he/she is allowed to practice after school. Failure to report to after school workout will result in an unexcused absence for the athlete unless prior notification is given that the athlete is missing for a justifiable reason. It is the athlete's responsibility to find out if their team is working out after school and find out the time of the workout. If an athlete get placed in ISS for more than 5 days they will be suspended from athletics for one (1) month. Any additional days will result in a month suspension for each day they receive. If they get ten (10) days total in one year they will be removed for the remainder of the school year.

*Tardy:*

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. Athletes that are tardy or that leave practice early will be expected to do make up work for the time they missed. Habitual tardiness will result in disciplinary action including possible suspension or dismissal.

*Drug Testing and Alcohol use:*

Drug/Alcohol use anytime is never acceptable, especially in an athletic program. Since athletics is a privilege, not a right, if a student athlete tests positive on a drug test, he/she will be removed from athletics for **30 days on the first offense, 60 days for the second offense and (1) calendar year for third offense. He/she will be tested every time after this and if they test positive again, it is possible that they could be suspended from athletics for the remainder of their school career. If they refuse, deny, tamper with drug test, we will consider that a failed drug test.** A hair drug test may be used in place of a urine test if we think a test was tampered with. A MIP or DWI that any student athlete receives will have the same consequences as a failed drug test.

## ACADEMICS

Athletes must realize that they are students first and athletes second. Athletes must plan their schedule so that they give sufficient time and energy to their studies to ensure acceptable grades. Athletes must be passing all subjects at the six weeks grading period in order to be eligible to play.

Athletes failing a course will be ineligible for competition for three weeks. They may regain eligibility after three weeks if they are passing all subjects at that time. If not, they remain ineligible for another three weeks.

Athletes that habitually earn failing grades on grade reports and/or progress reports become a detriment to the athletic program. They are showing neglect in their responsibility and obligation to their team and the athletic program.

They are also neglecting their main purpose for attending school. Athletes are encouraged to maintain all their grades throughout the school year. Tutorials are available for students that are struggling with their grades. Athletes are encouraged to take advantage of the tutorials and/or other resources that are available to help them with their grades.

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.

**Any athlete who fails two six weeks grading periods during a semester will be placed on academic probation for the next semester.** Their grades will be closely monitored, and they will be expected to show improvement in their grades during the probationary period.

**Any athlete on academic probation that fails two six weeks grading periods during the semester of their probation, will be removed from athletic competition for the next semester.** At the end of the suspension period, the athlete may regain participation privileges by requesting to complete the Athletic Re-Entry Program. The Athletic Re-Entry Program is detailed later in this handbook.

### Procedure for Quitting a Sport

Quitting is an intolerable habit to acquire. Athletes that quit are also “giving up” on themselves and those that depend on them. Commitment to being a Mountaineer or Lady Mountaineer team member is one of the most valuable lessons learned in athletics. Concerns and frustrations can often be worked out with proper communication between the athlete and coach.

- Any athlete wishing to quit a sport should notify the head coach. The head coach *should* then notify the parent/guardian of the athlete and discuss the athlete’s intent. The athlete will be provided 24 hours to reconsider quitting before his/her decision is considered final.
- If an athlete has participated in a sport for two weeks before quitting, he/she will not be allowed to start another sport until the first sport is completed.
  - An exception to this rule is during spring sports when an athlete is involved in multiple sports. An athlete participating in multiple sports simultaneously may choose to quit one sport and remain in the other sport AS LONG AS the head coaches agree it would be in the best interest of the athlete. The athlete will NOT be allowed to return to the sport he/she quit until next school year.



- If an athlete quits a sport, he/she may regain participation privileges in that sport or any other sport by requesting to complete the Athletic Re-Entry Program. Re-entry of an athlete into a sport requires the approval of the head coach AND Athletic Director. The Re-Entry Program must be completed under the supervision of a coach. Failure to meet the standards of the Re-Entry Program will forfeit the opportunity to re-join the sport. Re-Entry Program may be used only once per school calendar year for Jr High and High School athletics.
- An athlete quitting a sport and not wishing to participate in another sport will be removed from the athletic program and athletic class period. The schedule change will be made as soon as it is possible. In some cases this change may not be possible until the end of the semester. Once a student has changed schedules, they will not be allowed to change back to Athletics until the following school year.
- **An athlete who quits a second time (same sport or different sport) will not be allowed to use the Re-Entry Program to regain participation privileges in athletics.** Quitting violations for junior high and high school athletes will be cumulative for that school year.

### **Athletic Re-Entry Program**

The purpose of the athletic re-entry program is to allow an athlete an opportunity to show his/her commitment to return to the athletic program or sport. Any athlete who quits a sport will be required to complete the re-entry program before they are allowed to participate in any other sport, including the one he or she quit. An athlete is only allowed (1) quit in each year of their High School or Junior High Career.

If an athlete is suspended from the program or competition for a period of a semester or longer, he/she will have to complete the re-entry program before he/she may return to participate in any sport. At the discretion of the athletic director or head coach, **an athlete may be denied the privilege of using the re-entry program.**

Requirements of the Re-Entry Program:

1. Complete the request form to re-enter a sport or athletics. (See Athletic Director)
2. Successfully complete ten miles of running over a five-day period. The running will be in addition to the regular daily workout. A coach will supervise the running and the coach will determine the pace(time).
3. Write a two-page report on the importance of honor, integrity, courage and dependability to a team.
4. Must have passed all classes the previous six weeks AND provide a signed grade report from each current teacher showing passing grades and good behavior.
5. Must have demonstrated good citizenship and good behavior in school and in the community the previous semester. Detentions, ISS assignments, AEP placements, and criminal activities will be considered detrimental to a student requesting to complete the re-entry program.

Consistency in the Athletics Program will carry a heavy weight in determining if an athlete is allowed to complete the Re-Entry Program. The Athletics Department cannot compromise its integrity because of a players playing ability. As circumstances are different, each athlete will be examined on a case by case basis. Remember, participation in athletics is a privilege, not a requirement. The best interest of the athlete and the team has to prevail.



## **Letterman Awards**

### *Varsity:*

Athletes may receive one award jacket for their high school career. If an athlete receives a jacket in another extracurricular activity, they cannot receive one for athletics. After receiving a jacket, a varsity letter will be awarded for all additional times that an athlete qualifies for lettering in any varsity sport.

## **Letter Policy for High School Athletics**

In order to earn a letter jacket a student must participate in a sport for at least two years at the varsity level. The athlete must complete the entire season without failing, quitting, or removal from the team. If the coach feels extenuating circumstances, such as an injury, have kept the player from meeting the requirements, the letter can be awarded.

- Football – The athlete must participate in at least two varsity games for two years.
- Basketball – The athlete must be a member of the varsity team for two years.
- Track – The athlete must compete in the District Track Meet for two years.
- Cross Country – The athlete must compete in the district meet for two years.
- Tennis – The athlete must compete in the district meet for two years.
- Softball – The athlete must be a member of the varsity team for two years.

Based on exceptional performance an athlete may be awarded a letterman's jacket by the athletic committee, without completing the aforementioned criteria.

Any and all situations will require the approval of the athletic committee. The letterman jacket is an earned privilege and not a right. The athlete may be awarded one jacket for participation in high school extracurricular activities.

## **Athletic Passes**

It shall be the policy of the Santa Anna ISD Athletic Program to issue Player Passes to those athletes participating in each sport, which requires admission charge. The following stipulations shall apply to the passes.

1. Free admission is allowed only when the pass is presented. Failure to furnish a pass means the athlete must pay the standard student admission charge.
2. Identification may be required.
3. Use of the pass may be revoked if an unauthorized person uses the pass or the holder of the pass displays un-sportsman-like conduct at any contest.
4. Passes will be issued to admit athletes to Santa Anna ISD athletic events only.
5. If any athlete drops from a sport or fails a grading period the coach of that athlete must take up the player pass as a part of the issued equipment.

## **Team Travel**

The school will provide transportation for away contests. Athletes should be on time for the departure. They should be appropriately dressed. Passengers should keep the noise to a minimum and remain seated

at all times. Do not leave valuables and expensive items on the bus. Athletes should pick up their trash and help clean the bus when arriving back at the school.

It is highly recommended that all varsity athletes travel to and from athletic events with the team except in an emergency or special circumstance situation. We encourage sub varsity athletes to travel to and from athletic events with the team, but understand that due to many contests being on school nights it is sometimes better for the athletes to ride home with their parents.

This will be allowed under the following guidelines.

1. Under normal circumstances, students may be released only to their own parent/guardian. The parent/guardian should present himself/herself to the coach after the contest to confirm that the athlete will be going with the parent/guardian.

In some cases, the coach may request a parent signature before the student is released.

2. If the parent/guardian wishes their child to be released to another designated adult, a written request should be approved prior to the trip departure. The head coach, athletic director or principal may approve this written request. The designated adult should present himself/herself to the coach after the game to confirm they will be taking the athlete.

### **Equipment**

Team uniforms, warm-ups, and equipment belonging to Santa Anna ISD should be treated with care. The use and wear of the school equipment outside of athletic sponsored activities is prohibited. If an athlete loses equipment due to neglect and/or carelessness, he/she will be charged the replacement cost of that equipment. At the end of the season, the athlete is responsible for turning in equipment in the best possible condition or paying replacement costs.

### **Locker Room**

Athletes are expected to help keep locker rooms as neat and sanitary as possible. 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. Specific locker and locker room guidelines will vary from season to season. Locker room checks will be done and equipment left on floor or out of place will have consequences (running, up/downs etc...)

### **Grooming**

School personnel in charge of an extracurricular activity must regulate the dress and grooming of students who participate in the activity in accordance with the Santa Anna ISD Student Handbook.

### **Injury**

The potential for injury is inherent in all interscholastic sports. Even with the best coaching, the most advanced protective equipment, and a strict observance of rules, injuries can happen. Although serious injuries are not common in supervised school athletic programs, it is impossible to eliminate the risk. Parents and students must be willing to accept the risks associated with school sports. Athletes should report all injuries to the coach and to the athletes' parents.

Please remember that coaches are neither doctors nor athletic trainers. They can make suggestions and give advice, but they are not certified to diagnose, treat, and release athletes from injury. If an athlete is

seriously injured, he/she must have a doctor's release before continuing practice or competing in athletic contests.

If your child is injured at an athletic event, the coaches will do the following:

- 1) get emergency help,
- 2) contact the parent or legal guardian,
- 3) contact athletic director and administrator,
- 4) be advised by emergency personnel the next and safest step to follow to insure proper care of our athlete. (If this is EMS, or hospital trip, all parties will be updated continually).

### **Insurance**

The Santa Anna ISD will provide insurance coverage for interscholastic activities for the school year. The coverage period begins with the first day of two-a-days. The coverage provided is secondary to any medical insurance that you may already have. Benefits are intended to supplement other collectible insurance by assisting with balances left unpaid by your primary carrier. **If you have no other insurance, the benefits will not be adequate to cover the full cost of medical treatment.**

Claim forms must be sent within 90 days of the date the athlete first receives medical care. In order to expedite payment of claims, parents/guardians of athletes who have sustained an injury as a result of athletics should obtain a claim form from the coach or athletic director as soon as possible. Filing claims is the parent's responsibility.

### **Athlete/Coach Contact**

Being involved in athletics requires a lot of communication between coach and athlete. It is imperative that this communication be professional and send a clear concise message to both coach and athlete. With social medial, cell phones, email, instant messaging, etc, there are many ways available to communicate with coaches/athletes. However, coaches and athletes must also avoid inappropriate communication as well.

- **Appropriate Communication:** Coaches should only contact a student outside of school hours:
  - For a change in time to a scheduled event/practice/transportation
  - If it is the only means to contact a parent when needed
  - If the athlete is late to an event/practice/transportation to insure wellness
  - Follow up on an injury
- **Inappropriate Communication:** Coaches should NOT contact a student:
  - To discuss anything non-school athletic related.
  - To discuss personal matters such as dating, family issues, friends, etc
  - To discuss other students, athletes, coaches, faculty, administration
  - To harass, discipline, or out of anger
  - To discuss eligibility
  - For favors or help with projects non-school athletic related
  - For rides
  - To arrange meetings at non-school events or places
  - Sharing pictures, memes or videos should be avoided, especially non-Santa Anna ISD athletic related

- The best form of communication between athlete and coach, outside of school hours, is speaking on a phone by voice. Texting is not considered a proper form of communication because messages can be misinterpreted and are not always saved on the device for review by both parties. Proper instant messaging/text should be done as a group with at least one other coach/administrator included or copied on all communication. Contacting a student via social media forms should also be avoided as the public nature of the communication could be interpreted as inappropriate by community members. Keep coach/athlete contact outside of school hours to a minimum and ensure contact is necessary and justifiable. If a coach or athlete feels communication is inappropriate: stop all communication, save any and all messages, inform parents/guardians and/or administration immediately.

### **Communication/Parent Conferences**

Both parenting and coaching are difficult vocations. By establishing lines of communication and understanding each position, we are better able to accept the actions of others and provide greater benefits to children. One purpose of this handbook is to provide a line of communication between the athletic department and parents. Hopefully, the handbook will help parents understand what is expected of their child. At the same time, the athletic department hopes to receive support from the parents in enforcing the rules and regulations of the handbook.

Despite the communication, it is important to understand that there may be times when things do not go the way the athlete wishes or the parent wishes. At these times, a conference or discussion with the coach may be needed. Please understand that there are appropriate issues to discuss and there are issues not appropriate to discuss.

#### *Appropriate issues to discuss with coaches: per UIL*

1. Treatment of your child
2. Ways to help your child improve
3. Concerns about your child's behavior

#### *Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:*

1. Team strategy
2. Play calling
3. Other student-athletes
4. Playing time of other student athletes

#### *Conference procedures and guidelines:*

1. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before, during, or after a contest or during a practice. This can be an emotional time for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution. Productive meetings require calm, rational attitudes in a private setting.
2. Call the school (325-348-3137 ext. 225), to set up an appointment with the coach of your child's team or the head coach of the sport.

3. If you are not satisfied with your conference with the coach and/or coaches, you may then set up an appointment with the Athletic Director.

4. After discussing the issue with the head coach and the Athletic Director, you may then contact the Principal if you feel the situation has not been justly attended to.

Following the above order of contacts will generally get your concerns answered in the best fashion. If you prefer to have a conference with a combination of the individuals above, attempts will be made to accommodate your request.

### **Social Media Posts:**

Social Media is a great way to share information among family, friends communities and beyond. I encourage families and friends of athletes, and athletes themselves, to share great moments and accomplishments with others. Positive feedback will help create an impression of Santa Anna ISD Athletics we can be proud of.

Social media can also be a detriment to a school or athletic program when people make snap judgements or post negative pictures, memes, videos and comments out of anger about a school, coach, official, player, or faculty member. A majority of negative social media posts are later found to be untrue or embellished out of anger or jealousy.

- Parents/Guardians/Adults: Our goal at Santa Anna ISD is to provide a safe, fun productive atmosphere at our events, including away events. Therefore, the Santa Anna ISD Athletics Department implores you to please think twice before posting ANYTHING on Social Media, especially negative posts about an event, plays, practices, coach, player, faculty member, or official. If Santa Anna ISD views a post that we believe might encourage violence, both physical and verbal, on school property, a ban from the event will be issued and, if necessary, authorities will be notified.
- Athlete: Athletes are prohibited from posting ANY negative comments, memes, pictures, or videos about Santa Anna ISD, plays, practices, coaches, players, faculty, staff, or officials on any social media. It is never in the best interest of a team to speak negatively about any aspect of the team on a public platform.  
Negative social media posts will be addressed as follows:

1. Verbal apology and additional Drills from Head Coach
2. 1 page written apology and 1 game suspension
3. Dismissal from athletics

- Posting or texting pictures/video of activities deemed detrimental to the image of Santa Anna ISD and/or its Athletic department is prohibited. Whether on school property, during school hours or not, a Santa Anna ISD student is a Santa Anna ISD student, and athletes of Santa Anna ISD must conduct themselves in a way that represents our school with a high level of moral character. Cameras are on any person with a cell phone and people will take a picture or video of anything outrageous with the intent to show as many people as possible. Don't become a victim! Pictures or videos of athletes drinking alcohol, smoking cigarettes/cigars, doing illegal drugs, displaying lude gestures, revealing private body parts, performing sexual acts, or any other illegal activity is prohibited and grounds for immediate dismissal from

athletics. A review board will be assembled of coaches, Athletic Director, Superintendent, Principal, and other faculty as needed to determine if a potential violation should constitute dismissal from athletics and if any further disciplinary actions are needed.

### **Athletic Physical Examinations**

No student/athlete shall be eligible to practice or play a school sport until they have passed an adequate physical examination and have it on file. The UIL physical form must be completed and signed by a licensed physician, a parent or legal guardian, and the student. Santa Anna's local policy requires a physical examination for all student athletes annually. The athletic department will arrange a time and transportation for the physicals in the spring for athletes needing a physical for the next year.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact any Santa Anna ISD coach at 325-348-3137 or the Athletic Director, Coach Graves at 806-278-0197.



**SANTA ANNA ISD ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT**

I have received a copy of the Santa Anna ISD Athletic Handbook. I understand that I will be held accountable for the information outlined in this handbook.

Athlete's Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Athlete's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I have received a copy of the Santa Anna ISD Athletic Handbook. I understand that all athletes will be held accountable for the information outlined in this handbook. I give my approval for \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in the athletic program at Santa Anna ISD under the guidelines of the Santa Anna ISD Athletic Handbook.

Parent/Guardian Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_