Kirbyville Wildcats & Ladycats

Athletic Handbook

2024-2025

Relationships

Kirbyville athletes will strive to foster positive relationships with all that they come into contact with. This goes for every facet of the athlete's life. Athlete to parent / sibling / family. Athlete to athlete / friend / classmate. Athlete to coach / teacher / administration. Athlete to community members / officials / fellow competitors.

Integrity

Kirbyville athletes will show integrity in every facet of their life. In their relationships, they will work to uphold the correct values and help grow those relationships. In the classroom and school building and academics. Away from school when no one else is around. During competition, by competing the right way to the best of their ability.

Service

Kirbyville athletes will strive to show service to all that they come in contact with. The goal is to bring more to the table than just what is best for the athlete. Be a great teammate. Be a great student in the classroom and hallways. Be a great child. Service means the action of helping and putting the needs of others at the forefront.

Excellence

Kirbyville athletes will chase excellence in everything they do. Excellence at home as sons, daughters, brothers and sisters. Excellence in the school as STUDENT-athletes. Excellence in the competitive arena. Excellence is not just a "game" mindset. It is every rep, every set, every breath. Be the best version of yourself, and then raise the bar.

Kirbyville CISD Athletic Contact Information

Superintendent: Stephen Edwards sedwards@kirbyvillecisd.org	**Assistant Superintendent:** Kristi Gore kgore@kirbyvillecisd.org
High School Principal: Leslie Williams lwilliams@kirbyvillecisd.org	**Junior High Principal:** Ashley Powell apowell@kirbyvillecisd.org
Athletic Director: Seth Hubbard shubbard@kirbyvillecisd.org	**Girls Coordinator:** Michelle Merchant mmerchant@kirbyvillecisd.org
JH Boys Coordinator: Ross Prokop mprokop@kirbyvillecisd.org	**JH Girls Coordinator:** Chelsea Whitmire cwhitmire@kirbyvillecisd.org

Head Coaches

Football Seth Hubbard	**Volleyball** Kaitlyn Gil
Cross Country Dianna Caston	**Tennis** Dianna Caston
Boys Basketball Travis Williams	**Girls Basketball** Michelle Merchant
Baseball Tyler Bates	**Softball** Kassie James
Boys Track Seth Hubbard	**Girls Track** R'Kel Collins
Powerlifting Joseph Fentress	**Cheerleading** Leah Richardson
Golf Brady McMillon	

Kirbyville CISD Athletic Statement

The Kirbyville CISD Athletic Department will work to provide a safe and competitive athletic environment for our student athletes, while promoting the ideals of teamwork, sportsmanship, hard work and self-discipline.

The Kirbyville CISD Athletic Department is an integral part of the total education program. Athletics are a vital part of the physical, mental, social and moral growth of our student athletes. It is imperative to understand that participation in the Kirbyville CISD Athletic Department is a **PRIVILEGE** and not a right.

This handbook communicates important information concerning the athletic policies and procedures to our parents and students. The Athletic handbook is designed to coexist with Kirbyville CISD, Kirbyville HS and Kirbyville JH handbooks. Student Athletes in grades 7-12 are accountable and responsible for the rules and regulations set forth in this handbook. After reviewing all information, there is a signature page that must be signed by the student athlete and guardian. Participation will not be allowed until acknowledgment of the handbook and the rules and guidelines within has been received by the Athletic Department.
Anything not covered in the handbook will be left to the discretion of the Athletic Director.

UIL Student-Athlete Varsity Eligibility

The full guidelines and criteria for student-athlete varsity eligibility may be found on the UIL website. The key points are below:

- Less than 19 years of age on September 1 preceding the contest, or has been granted eligibility based on a disability which delayed his or her education by at least one year
- Did not change schools for athletic purposes
- Is an amateur
- Are full time, day students in the school, and have been in regular attendance at the school since the 6th day of present school year, or have been in regular attendance for 15 or more calendar days before the contest or competition,
- Meets UIL residency requirements
- Are in compliance with state law and rules of the State Board of Education (No Pass, No Play)

Kirbyville CISD Student Athlete Expectations

The responsibilities of a Kirbyville Wildcat or Ladycat include, but are not limited to:

- Strive for excellence in all activities at all times while representing Kirbyville CISD
- Be committed to attend practices, contests and meetings of any sport that they choose to participate in.
- Personally notify the head coach of their sport if extenuating circumstances arise that prevent the athlete from being at a team function
- Abide by any and all rules set forth by this handbook and the coaching staff
- Be responsible for the proper care of all issued equipment and clothing. Issued clothing should not be worn outside of athletic participation, unless it is noted as "Game-Day" dress. Lost, damaged or destroyed clothing and equipment will result in compensation from the athlete.
- Maintain and meet all requirements both academically and behaviorally in the school at all times
- Exercise self-control and display positive actions and emotions during competition and other school activities
- Display sportsmanship and class at all times while representing Kirbyville CISD
- Have respect for and do not have negative interactions with all adults that we may come into contact with (Coaches, Officials, Workers)
- Exemplify RISE

Athletic Department Guidelines

The Athletic Director has discretion to suspend or place on probation the student athlete for any major infraction of the standards set forth in this athletic handbook and/or school policy.

The Athletic Department staff will strive to enforce and maintain all policies and procedures set forth. Communication will be maintained between the coaching staff, Athletic Director, Principals and Superintendent when infractions warrant suspension from athletic activities.

Student Athletes and parents are expected to follow a proper channel of communication when an issue arises. That order should be the Athletic Director, the Principal and then the Superintendent. The Athletic Director will help to facilitate any meeting that needs to occur between a parent and a sport coach. There is also a proper time to attempt to address any issues. In most cases, immediately after a contest IS NOT the proper time. Unless there are very extreme circumstances, meetings need to be scheduled ahead of time with the Athletic Director and Coach.

Kirbyville CISD does not discriminate against any person because of race, creed, national origin, age, sex economic status or handicap condition in employment, promotion or educational programming.

Sport Definitions

The Athletic Department is broken down into 2 types of sports: team and individual.
Team: Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball, Softball, *Tennis, *Cheerleading
Individual: Cross Country, Powerlifting, Golf, Track
**Enrollment in the athletic period requires involvement in at MINIMUM of 1 team sport.
**The Athletic Director has discretion to review each case on an individual basis when it comes to individual sports and the athletic period.
For the Athletic Department to achieve the desired success, we strongly encourage our athletes to participate in multiple sports. We are striving get to the point where only very specific circumstances keep an athlete from participating in more than 1 sport.

School Sports vs Select Sports

In the case of a non-school athletic event conflicting with a school related athletic event, Kirbyville CISD expects that school related event to take priority. Missing a school related athletic event for an outside athletic event could result in suspension or removal from the Kirbyville Athletic Program.

Athletics Period Grade

Every student athlete will begin the 6 week grading period with a 100. It is then up to the Athlete to maintain that grade. Failure to participate without proper documentation will result in a 5 point deduction for the 6 weeks for EACH athletic period missed. Proper documentation includes Medical documentation, Athletic Trainer recommendation, Athletic Director recommendation etc. Every athlete is expected to participate every day, barring medical limitations.

*Seniors who have completed ALL of their sports seasons will not be required to go through the out of sport workouts. They WILL still be required to be present, and wherever the coaches have instructed them to be.

Academics

Kirbyville athletes are STUDENT athletes. Failure to maintain the necessary academic standards can result in the removal from the athletic program. Eligibility for competition will follow the guidelines set forth by the district. A student who is ineligible due to academics will still be required at every practice.

Attendance

It is the responsibility of the student athlete to communicate with their coach if there are extenuating circumstances that prevent them from being at an athletic period, practice or activity. Athletics takes a commitment, and a large part of that is the athlete's time. Excessive tardiness will not be tolerated. Tardies will be handled by the coach of each sport. You are not only hurting yourself, but also each coach and teammate involved in the activity by not being prompt with you arrival.

Absences will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

An absence may be excused if it is an emergency, illness or other extenuating circumstance. Communication before hand and proper documentation afterwards must be provided for an absence to be excused. It will be up to the discretion of the coach if conditioning is needed to be made up for an excused absence.

An unexcused absence shows a lack of commitment to the team. Each sport will have a unique exercise to reaffirm the commitment of the athlete. Failure to be committed can result in loss of playing time. Excessive lack of commitment will result in the removal of the athlete from the sport.

*The Athletic Director, with the input of the head coach, will have final discretion on all removal occurrences.

Game Day Attendance / Next Day Attendance

Student athletes are expected to be in attendance for the duration of the school day when an athletic event is scheduled.

Any student athlete that has an unexcused absence the day after an athletic event will be suspended for the next competition.

Quitting

Athletics takes commitment. Commitment means finishing what you started. Each sport will have a grace period (3 weeks) for an athlete to decide if it is for them or not. Once the grace period is over, quitting is not accepted. Your desire to not finish shows you no longer want to be in the Athletic Program. Each case will be handled on an individual basis.

School Discipline

Student athletes are held to a higher standard than their peers. Failure to behave in the school setting will result in disciplinary action. The severity of the infraction will determine the disciplinary action that follows. Disciplinary action could include, but not be limited to:

- Tire Flips / Towel Pushes / Gauntlets / Other
- Loss of Playing Time
- Suspension / Removal from team

ISS / DAEP

A student athlete placed in ISS is required to attend every practice during his / her placement in ISS. Athletes are not permitted to participate in competition while serving an ISS placement. ISS placement is considered complete at the end of the school day.

- Ex: ISS Assigned Monday - Wednesday = student ineligible Monday & Tuesday
- Ex: ISS Assigned Wednesday - Thursday = student ineligible Wednesday
- Ex: ISS Assigned Thursday - Monday = student ineligible Thursday, Friday, Saturday

A student athlete placed in DAEP is NOT permitted to practice or compete for the duration of their DAEP placement. Participation after the completion of a DAEP term is at the discretion of the Athletic Director.

Athletic Event Behavior / Expectations

Student Athlete Expectations

Unsportsmanlike activity will not be tolerated. Ejection from a contest will result in disciplinary action by the UIL. Further disciplinary action will be taken at the discretion of the Athletic Director, Principal and Superintendent if deemed necessary.

Examples of unsportsmanlike behavior include but are not limited to:

- Taunting
- Fighting
- Profanity
- Disrespect of game officials
- Disrespect of teammates and coaches

Spectator Expectations

Attendance at athletic events is also a privilege, not a right. The UIL has been known to force competitions to be held behind closed doors due to fan behavior. Kirbyville CISD strives to lead the way through positive action to show our support for ALL people involved in an athletic contest.

****Failure of a spectator to follow our guidelines will result in removal from the event and continued failure will result in the removal of the student athlete from athletics.**

Proper fan behavior can include but is not limited to:

- Cheering / supporting of the Wildcats and Ladycats
- Respect of all workers at the stadium / gym / field
- Respect of all decisions made by coaching staff
- Respect of all rulings made by officials
- Respect for the opponent and their fans and staff
- Encouraging good sportsmanship and showing appreciation when it occurs
- Cheers to encourage OUR team

Unacceptable fan behavior can include but is not limited to:

- Taunting / derogatory comments at the opposing team
- Taunting / derogatory comments at the officials
- Taunting / derogatory comments at OUR players
- Taunting / derogatory comments at OUR coaches
- Other behavior unbecoming of good sportsmanship

Again - ****Failure of a spectator to follow our guidelines will result in removal from the event and continued failure will result in the removal of the student athlete from athletics.**

This handbook covers the high points of what we expect from our student athletes and those involved with athletics. There will be situations that arise that don't have a clear solution. The Athletic Director will work with all involved parties to determine the best course of action in those situations.

The next page is a social media contract followed by the signature page. Please carefully review the social media contract. Receipt of this handbook and signature of acknowledgement signifies that you have read and will abide by the social media contract as well as all other guidelines previously covered.

Being a student athlete opens many doors for you. Most of those are positive. You will get to have experiences to last you a lifetime. However, being a student athlete comes with higher expectations than your peers, and social media is one of those.

Social Media Contract

Social media can be a useful tool to communicate with teammates, fans, friends, coaches and others. Social media can also be extremely dangerous and detrimental to both an athlete and the athletic program. Every picture, link, quote, like, retweet, story, status etc that you post is out there forever. Those posts are all viewed in a very small box, and it is difficult to see the big picture through one social media post. You never know what can be taken out of context and be detrimental to you now and in the future. Your reputation can be ruined with one wrong like or repost. Key social media thoughts to remember are as follows, but not limited to:

- Privacy Settings are NOT foolproof. Screenshots, and other methods of photography are readily available
- Think twice before posting confidential information
- Perception is Reality…what is seen is what people think
- DO NOT post threatening post, images, texts
- DO NOT post indecent photos or texts
- DO NOT post about illegal activities
- If you post it, like it, retweet it, snap it…it is like you said / did it

Social Media Guidelines	Social Media Punishable Offenses
● I am responsible for any post, photo, video that I am associated with in anyway ● I will not retaliate to any negativity directed towards myself or others ● I am aware that I represent my community, school, team and family in everything that I post online ● I will represent myself in a positive manner on Social Media	● Profanity or inappropriate language ● Demeaning threats or statements directed at another other person ● Posts linking myself to any illegal activities or actions that go against school policy and handbooks ● Bullying of any kind ● Indicating knowledge of illegal activity ● Indicating knowledge of unknown school or team violations

Kirbyville CISD Athletics 2024-2025

I have received and reviewed a copy of the Kirbyville CISD Athletic Handbook for 2024-2025. As a Kirbyville CISD student athlete, I understand the handbook contains information, expectations, and other guidelines for me to follow. I also understand that there are consequences for my actions based on those expectations and guidelines**.** My signature signifies that I understand all student athletes will be held accountable for their conduct and behavior and are subject to disciplinary action outlined in the handbook. I also understand that athletics is a privilege and it can be revoked at any time due to my actions. I also signify that the Athletic

Student Athlete Printed Name: _____

Student Athlete Signature: _____

Parent / Guardian Printed Name: _____

Parent / Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____