



**Terrell County ISD  
Athletic Handbook  
2024-2025**

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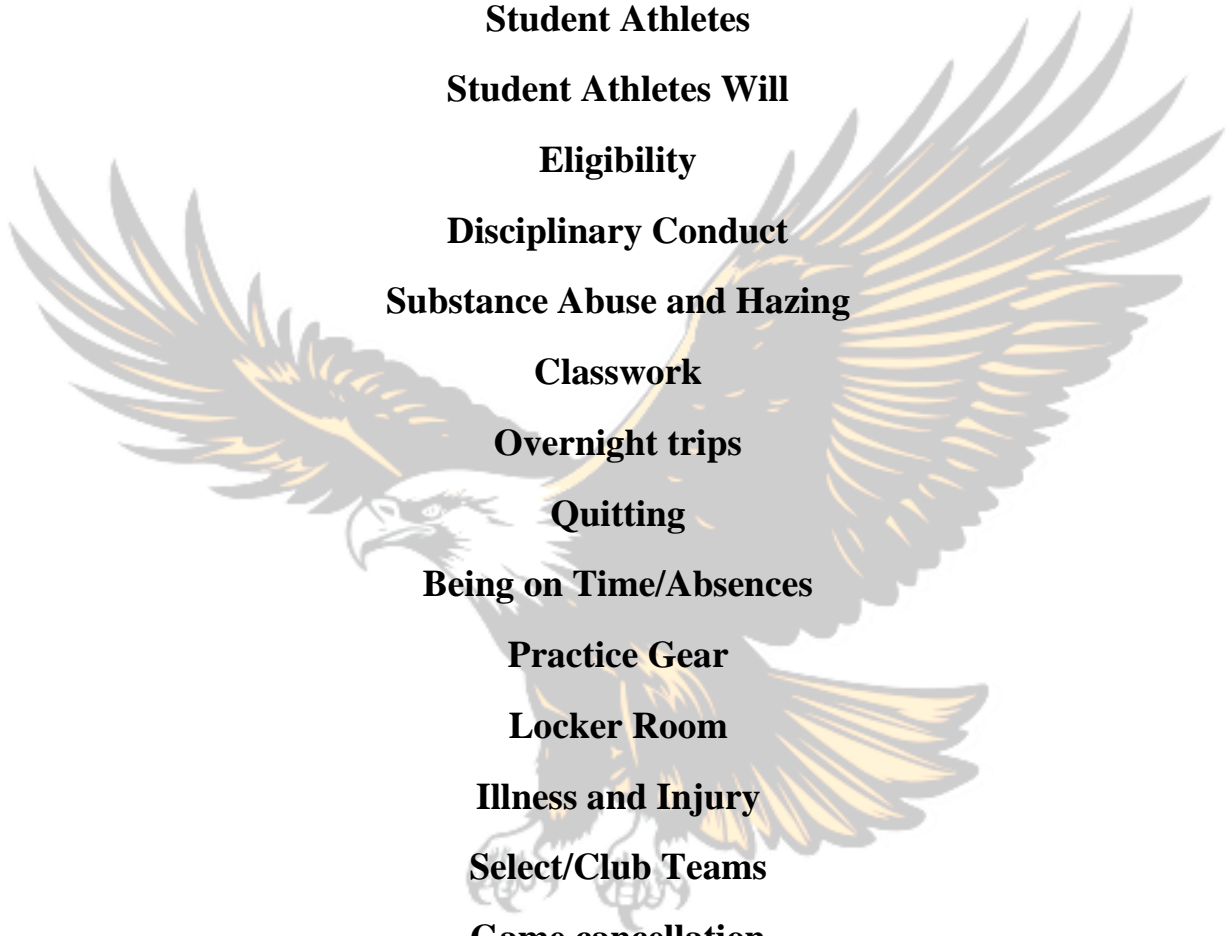
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Dear Parents and Student-Athletes,

We would like to welcome you to the Terrell County Athletic Program! We believe that participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences that assist students in personal growth and development. Terrell County believes in the development of young men and women through athletics. We feel that a properly structured, well-organized sports program meets student's needs for self-expression, mental alertness, and physical growth. It is our pledge to maintain a program that is sound in purpose and will further each student's educational maturity. Likewise, we believe that parents have committed themselves to certain responsibilities and obligations to the student-athlete. We would like to take this opportunity to familiarize you with specific policies that are necessary for a well-organized athletic program. It is the role of the Athletic Department to make rules governing interscholastic competition. These rules need broad-based community support to be fully effective. This is best achieved through mutual communication between the Athletic Department, the student-athletes, and the parents of each of our student-athletes. One way that we have committed to accomplishing this objective is through this athletic handbook for students, parents, and coaches. The most important reason that our department exists is to ensure that students have an opportunity to partake in and enjoy sports during their time at Terrell County schools. As an athletic department, we can assure you that students and the teams which they are a part of are the guiding force in everything we do and every decision that we make. Our focus and primary objective—in making this handbook and in all that we do—will always be to do what is in the best interest of the student and their team. This combination shall ensure a promising and successful future for Terrell County Athletics. Thank You very much for taking the time to read the athletic handbook. It will not only allow you to become familiar with our policies and procedures, but it will also allow for a smooth transition for you as a new or continued member of the Terrell County Eagles athletic program. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

**GO Eagles!**

Justin Hilliard  
Director of Athletics

## PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY:

The athletic department at Terrell County is an important part of our school's educational program. We want to ensure that each student-athlete reaches their maximum potential. It is our philosophy to use athletics as a vehicle to join young athletes from different backgrounds for the purpose of becoming future leaders of the community. Throughout the process we will develop a set of skills and a disciplined environment that will produce **QUALITY LEADERS** in the concept of **FAMILY, PROFESSIONALISM, and CITIZENSHIP**. In doing so, there will be a direct correlation to **SUCCESS** in the athletic program that will result in a **CHAMPIONSHIP** caliber program with a heightened sense of **PRIDE** toward the school that will benefit the program as a whole and everyone who is involved with the community as well.

Our program will strive to:

- **Achieve Academic success through Athletics and lead them into success after HS**
- Offer a well-balanced and varied program of interscholastic athletics.
- Teach the value of competition.
- Foster the development of athletic skills.
- Encourage the development of a strong work ethic, self-discipline and self-sacrifice.
- Teach the value of commitment, teamwork and cooperation.
- Encourage the development of judgment, character, and leadership.
- Teach the value of ethical conduct, sportsmanship, and fair play.
- Encourage the development of loyalty and pride in oneself, their team, and the school community.

## OUR COACHES:

The coach is responsible for creating a fun, safe, and challenging environment in which his/her student-athletes will receive a high level of instruction and competition. The coach is also responsible for confirming game and bus schedules, turning in a roster prior to the season, distributing and collecting uniforms and equipment, completing game, injury and/or incident reports, and communicating with parents. The coach must also ensure that student-athletes are exhibiting good behavior on and off the court/field. The coach is expected to be a positive representative of Terrell County ISD and the Athletic Department. This includes ensuring that the coach conducts himself/herself in a manner that will bring honor and respect to our teams and school. He/She is expected to make decisions based on the collective interest of the team, while also developing each student-athlete to his/her fullest potential. The coach must be clear in expectations and available to student-athletes for positive mentorship on and off the field/court. He/She is expected to maintain high personal standards, motivate the players, and promote sportsmanship in all aspects, always.

## PARENTS:

Parents play a vital role in the Terrell County Athletics Program. Parents model attitudes and behavior for their children. We invite all parents to attend home and away games, **support the team, and encourage their children** to practice and play hard. We are so appreciative of the assistance parents provide for their children in their athletic endeavors, whether driving them to

and from practice, volunteering to serve athletics as a member of the Booster Club and sacrificing family time to accommodate athletic schedules. We also appreciate the support parents provide our coaches in their efforts to create a valuable athletic experience for all participants. It is important for parents to be mindful of and respect what the coaches are trying to do by **avoiding interference or public criticism**, especially in front of their children, other teammates, or community members. Regarding games, parents are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will bring honor and respect to our teams and school. At no time should a parent display inappropriate behavior toward an official, coach, administrator or student-athlete. Any Spectator/Parent who acts in a disruptive manner can be suspended until the situation is resolved or the spectator is removed. **HS athletes will play games over holiday breaks. These schedules will be put out as soon as they are completed for parents to schedule vacations around. To have a successful HS program, we need every kid at every practice and event. This also includes summer workouts.**

## STUDENT-ATHLETES:

The student-athlete is expected to be a positive addition to the Terrell County Athletic Department. If a student-athlete must discuss an issue with the coach, he/she must communicate in a respectful manner to try and find a solution. If a situation cannot be reached, the Athletic Director may assist. Student-Athletes will be representing Terrell County on and off the playing court/field and are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will reflect positively upon our program and school. Student-Athletes are expected to be respectful and exhibit good behavior in class, in practice, in games and in the community. If a student-athlete fails to conduct himself/herself in a manner that will bring honor and respect to our teams and school, he/she may be subject to penalties which may include game suspensions, ineligibility, or dismissal from the team. **Social Media:** Any post deemed to be detrimental to our program, school and the values we want will be dealt with accordingly. Negative comments and posts towards other players and teammates are prohibited. We will conduct ourselves with class with high morals and character at school and away from the field/court.

## STUDENT-ATHLETES WILL:

- **Perform in the classroom to be able to compete in Athletic events.**
- Be a worthy representative of teammates, coaches, and the school community, abiding by school and community expectations.
- Reflect the knowledge that commitment to victory is nothing without commitment to hard work in practice.
- Understand that athletics is just one part in the big picture with the cornerstone being that a Terrell County student strives to achieve excellence in all areas.
- Learn to deal with adversity in an honorable way and to capitalize on growth opportunities.
- Express feelings intelligently and appropriately
- Accept the responsibilities of team membership: support of teammates, cooperation, positive interaction, and mutual respect.
- **Meals will be provided for athletes who ride to and from events. If an athlete leaves with a parent, the parent is responsible for feeding. If an athlete gets a meal and leaves with a**

parent, the parent will be charged the price of the meal, and the athlete will not be allowed to participate until compensation has been received.

## **ELIGIBILITY:**

Terrell County ISD follows the UIL rules of eligibility and students must be in good standing with all UIL rules to participate (Grades, Residency, Physicals, etc.). 6<sup>th</sup> grade will again be allowed to play JH athletics in all sports and are being held to the same standard.

- Grades will be kept above 70 or the athlete may not be able to participate in games.
  - The Athletic Director or Coach will have discretion to suspend until the grades are brought up.
- Student athletes who have not met the standards of the athletic program may be removed after a review board has determined the athlete has not met the standards put forth in the athletic policy.
- These standards include:
  - Failed drug test.
  - Failed nicotine test multiple times.
  - DAEP/ISS
  - Multi grading period failures.
  - Negative attitudes during a sport and/or detrimental conduct to the athletic program

## **DISCIPLINARY CONDUCT:**

The Head Coach of a sport and the Athletic Director may determine the consequences for failure to follow our policies. Consequences are to be equally enforced, and continued non-compliance can result in being suspended from athletics for a full year. Repeat offenses will result in a disciplinary action that is progressively stricter.

Since circumstances surrounding each action may vary greatly, the coaching staff will make every effort to allow the punishment to fit the offense. Punishments extended in similar cases will help guide coaching decisions, but each case will stand independently, and comparisons to punishments extended to other student-athletes are not valid. Parents may schedule a conference with the coach of the sport to discuss punishment assigned to their student athlete.

For an athlete to be considered in violation, one or more of the following must occur:

- The athlete admits to the violation.
- Parent of the athlete admits to the violation.
- A Terrell County ISD staff member witnesses the athlete in violation.
- A Terrell County ISD administrator has reason to believe that an athlete has committed an offense.
- A local agency report or violation is filed.
- A local agency of the law makes a verbal report of a violation.
- Evidence such as a photograph or video is presented.
- Students will be placed on a growth plan if in violation.



- If the student athlete is removed from a team, they will be required to sit out until that current season is complete.

Students should refrain from wearing hair styles or hair colors that draw attention to themselves. Hair colors must NOT extend beyond natural tones. Male students shall have their hair clean-cut and should not extend below the earlobes. Sideburns shall not extend below the lobes of the ear. Facial hair will NOT be permitted.

- Students are expected to dress accordingly for all out-of-town competitions.
- When traveling for athletics, the students must wear the school issued uniform or coach's required travel dress code. Shirts not representing Sanderson Schools will NOT be allowed.
  - Extracurricular participants MAY NOT wear the following attire to school or on a school-related trip: ripped or frayed jeans, shirts that represent other districts, shirts that are derogatory or could present a negative outlook on the student or district.
- Caps and/or hats will be worn at the discretion of the head coach but will not be worn so as to call attention to the individual and will be worn properly positioned at all times.
- Piercing will not be allowed for males and are limited to the ears for females.
- Tattoos must be covered at ALL times.
- Students are expected to dress accordingly in order to positively represent Terrell County ISD and the Sanderson community. When you travel as a team for competition, you must always look like a team.
- Students **WILL** travel with the team to and from the competition site unless arrangements have been made with the head coach/sponsor.
  - An athlete not traveling home with the team from an event must notify the coach/sponsor 48 hours prior to leaving for the event with a note from the parent regarding the circumstance.
  - Any athlete not riding the bus will not be fed with school money after the event. If an athlete rides the bus to the food venue then gets in a car with a parent, that athlete will be responsible for reimbursement of the school and will be suspended/removed from the team.

**SERIOUS CRIMINAL OFFENSE:**

- Texas High School Coaches Association: Code of Ethics, Article IX, Management of a Felony Crime
  - It will be considered a breach of the code of ethics to willingly allow a student/athlete who is charged with and under indictment for a felony crime to participate in an athletic contest. This action should not be considered a presumption of guilt, but rather it affords the accused athlete the time and opportunity to clear his/her name. The student/athlete may be allowed to remain on his/her athletic team as a suspended member, but should not be allowed to represent his/her school or community in an athletic contest while under this suspension.

- Any athlete that is charged with a serious criminal offense is suspended from athletic contests until their guilt or innocence is determined.

**CONDUCT THAT RESULTS IN REMOVAL FROM ATHLETICS:**

- Any athlete that is involved in gang-related activities will be removed from the athletic program at the Athletic Director’s discretion.
- Any athlete that is in violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct may be disciplined or removed from the athletic program at the AD’s discretion.
- Any athlete that is caught stealing from teammates will be removed from the athletic program.

**ATHLETIC DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE:**

All discipline issues or violations that require action such as removal or suspension from the program will be reviewed by the athletic discipline committee. The committee is made up of the Head Coach from that sport, the Athletic Director, Principal or Assistant Principal and a teacher that has that student athlete in class. The infraction will be reviewed, and the proper course of action will be decided for that student athlete.

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND HAZING:**

Any student-athlete found to be in violation of the school’s substance abuse policy will automatically be suspended from all team activities including practice, games, tournaments, dinners, etc., while the reported offense is under review by the coach, athletic director, and school administrator. Terrell County Athletic Department reserves the right to impose disciplinary action or other conditions which it considers in its discretion, appropriate to the circumstances of any violation. This may include suspension from the athletic team for the remainder of the season, as well as expulsion from the athletic program for the remainder of the school year.

- The use of tobacco in **ANY** form by any athlete is prohibited.
- **VAPING IS PROHIBITED FOR ALL ATHLETES!!** Any athlete caught with a vape, will be **removed** from athletics.
- The consumption of alcoholic beverages of any kind, variety, or description, including beer, liquor, wine, malt liquor, ale, and/or mixed beverages by any athlete is prohibited.
- The consumption or use of marijuana of any species, or any narcotic or dangerous drug listed as a controlled substance by the Texas Controlled Substance Act is prohibited, unless the same is used in accordance with the prescription from a Doctor of Medicine.
- Steroid use of any type is prohibited.

**Sanctions for Positive Drug Test:** *Consequences for positive results on a drug test are cumulative throughout the current school year and limited to one consecutive. I.E. A student fails in April and the next test is in September and fails.*

- **First Offense** – There will be a conference with the student, his/her parent, guardian, athletic director, and the person(s) responsible for administering the extracurricular



activity the student participates in (if applicable). Students will be suspended from competition in extracurricular activities and/or have their parking privileges revoked for 30 calendar days. The student will subsequently agree to be tested for nine additional tests and/or one calendar year from his/her original positive test.

- **Second Offense** - There will be a conference with the student, his/her parent, guardian, athletic director, and the person(s) responsible for administering the extracurricular activity the student participates in (if applicable). Students will be suspended from competition in all extracurricular activities and/or have their parking privileges revoked for 90 calendar days. The student will subsequently agree to be tested for nine additional tests and/or one calendar year from his/her last positive test.
- **Third Offense** - There will be a conference with the student, his/her parent guardian, athletic director, and person(s) responsible for administering the extracurricular activity the student participates in (if applicable). The student will be suspended from all extracurricular activities and/or have their parking privileges revoked for one calendar year. Upon completion of the suspension the student must write a letter to the superintendent on his/her intentions to be able to be a part of extracurricular activities at Terrell County Independent School District. The student will subsequently agree to be tested for the remainder of his/her participation in extracurricular activities at Terrell County Independent School District.

**Refusal to Test** – Each time a student refuses to take a drug test, after having signed the consent form, it will be treated as a positive test. If a student whose name is on the list should leave school without testing and/or following the proper check out procedures, it will be treated as a positive test.

**Sanctions for Positive Nicotine Test:** *a student may not return to competition until all conditions are completed.*

- **First Offense** – There will be a conference with the student, his/her parent, guardian, athletic director, and the person(s) responsible for administering the extracurricular activity the student participates in (if applicable). The student will be required to take a nicotine awareness course on Global Tobacco Control (<https://www.globaltobaccocontrol.org/en/online-courses>) modules in the students' own time, but on campus either before or after school. If the student is in athletics, they will receive a one week suspension.
- **Second Offense** - There will be a conference with the student, his/her parent, guardian, athletic director, and the person(s) responsible for administering the extracurricular activity the student participates in (if applicable). The student will be required to take a nicotine awareness course on Global Tobacco Control modules in the students' own time, but on campus either before or after school. If the student is in athletics, they will receive a three week suspension.
- **Third Offense** - There will be a conference with the student, his/her parent, guardian, athletic director, and the person(s) responsible for administering the extracurricular activity the student participates in (if applicable). The student will be required to take a nicotine awareness course on Global Tobacco Control modules in the students' own time, but on campus either before or after school. The student will be removed from athletics indefinitely and lose driving privileges indefinitely. For the student to return they must

write a letter to the Superintendent about their commitment to not abuse nicotine and the steps they will take moving forward. The Superintendent will then determine the length of suspension for the student.

**Refusal to Test** – Each time a student refuses to take a drug test, after having signed the consent form, it will be treated as a positive test. If a student whose name is on the list should leave school without testing and/or following the proper check out procedures, it will be treated as a positive test. Therefore, the student must take the nicotine awareness course as well have the first/second/third offense discipline from the upper portion of this regulation.

Terrell County ISD Athletic Department forbids any form of hazing. Hazing is defined as any forced, required, intentional or negligent action, situation or activity which recklessly places any person at risk of physical injury, mental distress or personal indignity, or which encourages violation of any federal, state, local, or school law for the purpose of initiation into, or affiliation with, any organization affiliated with the Terrell County Athletic Department. This applies regardless of the willingness of the participant. Hazing, with or without the consent of a student, is prohibited by Terrell County ISD and a violation of that prohibition renders both the person inflicting the hazing and the person submitting to the hazing subject to discipline.

### **CLASSWORK:**

Student-athletes are expected to maintain satisfactory conduct in all classes. Any student-athlete who does not maintain satisfactory conduct in a class will be subject to a behavioral improvement plan.

On occasion when student-athletes must miss class to participate in scheduled athletic events, they are responsible for turning in class work that is due that day and they are responsible for making up any missed work in a timely fashion. **The Athlete will not be allowed to miss more than 3 days a week for athletic purposes. Students will also not travel to 3 sporting events per week if their grade falls below 70, this will include traveling to practices away from the school.** If a student-athlete arrives home late from an athletic contest or misses class the day before a test due to an athletic contest, it is at the teacher's discretion to allow the student-athlete to test at an alternative time. If the student-athlete must leave class early on a testing day due to an athletic contest, it is the responsibility of the student-athlete to reschedule the test for a date that is agreed upon by the student-athlete and teacher.

Any Student-Athlete that receives ISS will not be allowed to practice or play in any games on the days that student has been removed from regular classes. These missed practices will count as an excused absence and conditioning will be made up before the next contest. Multiple trips to ISS by the same students will lead to a Disciplinary review of the student to remain in athletics.

### **OVERNIGHT TRIPS:**

Varsity teams may periodically have overnight trips during the regular season or post-season tournaments. Hotel and transportation arrangements are made by the Athletic Director. The nature of team travel will require implementing room curfews, limiting or denying student-athlete separation from the group, and defining appropriate dress and behavior while our student-athletes are representing our school. School rules are in effect when team travel occurs. Whether

in or out of town, on or off the field/court, Terrell County student-athletes are expected to uphold the highest standards of decorum.

## **QUITTING:**

Athletes who quit a sport will not be allowed to start another sport until the team they were participating in has finished with their season.

To encourage participation in all sports, if a student-athlete wants to try a sport, he can communicate with the coach before the season and be given a two-week grace period to practice deciding if the student wants to compete in that sport or not.

If the athlete quits after the two-week grace period, they will be required to run 15 miles (observed by a coach) in addition to sitting out until that season is finished before moving on to the next sport. The Athlete will have 15 school days to run those miles. They must be complete before they can begin the next sport. We want to encourage each athlete to follow through with their commitments and finish what they start. **\*\*SEE QUIT FORM IN BACK OF PACKET.**

## **BEING ON TIME/ABSENCES**

Student-athletes are expected to be dressed and on time to the athletic period, practice, games, or any other event specified by the coach. **It is the student-athletes responsibility to notify the coach if he/she is going to be late or absent.** If the coach is unable to be contacted, a message should be left at the office. Failure to notify the coach may result in disciplinary action. **We as a staff are using the SportsYou app and a message can be sent on there if the athlete cannot verbally inform the coach.**

An absence for any reason is still an absence and should be made up before the next contest. The make-up conditioning is done to make up for the workout the athlete missed by the athlete, both in the athletic period and after school practice. The extra make up conditioning is done in addition to the normal daily workout and should be done for every workout missed. All absences of athletic period or practice will result in sport specific conditioning and/or penalty.

**Excused Absence-** An excused absence is granted for an **illness, emergency, death, etc.** In such cases, the student-athlete should call the coach prior to the absence, as well as present the coach with a written note from the parent/guardian/doctor immediately following the incident if requested. Communication is the responsibility of the student-athlete and parent/guardian.

The Terrell County Athletic Department understands that there will be times when it is unavoidable to miss. However, even an excused absence will be required to make up the missed work. This is not punishment, it is “make-up” conditioning that was missed.

**Unexcused Absence-** And unexcused absence is **failure to communicate** an absence with a coach, or an absence that is **not a legitimate** reason to miss. One unexcused absence will result in extra conditioning and a one game suspension. **Two** unexcused absences will result in a three game suspension and extra conditioning. If the athlete has **three** unexcused absences, they will be removed from the team that’s in season and placed on a growth plan. They will also be

required to run their 15 miles and sit out until that season has ended before moving on to the next sport.

### **PRACTICE GEAR:**

The athletics program hands out workout clothing for all kids, whether in season or in offseason. This clothing will be worn every day with no exceptions. Student-athletes are responsible for all items issued to him/her. Any lost, damaged, or stolen items must be paid for by the student-athlete before another is issued, an itemized bill will be provided if requested. All uniforms and warm-ups are due the day after the final game of the season or on the date set by the coach. Any missing items that have not been returned or paid for will result in the athlete not walking the stage (seniors) or removal from the athletic program until the items are accounted for.

### **LOCKER ROOMS:**

All Terrell County ISD students, 6-12 grades (Physical Education and Student-athletes) will be using the locker rooms. Coaches will lock the locker rooms before leaving for practice and will reopen the locker rooms when returning from practice. The student-athletes are encouraged to put all valuables and personal items in the school lockers for safe keeping. The Athletic Department, coaches, or Athletic Director are not responsible for lost or stolen items (uniforms, equipment, school issued materials, or personal items) that are in the locker room or surrounding athletic facilities. Varsity locker rooms are for Varsity players only, JH kids will not enter a Varsity locker room for any reason. The JH locker rooms are also off limits for any HS kid. Coaches will get any equipment from those locker rooms only.

- Cell Phones are PROHIBITED in the locker room/bathrooms associated with Athletic Facilities.

### **ILLNESS & INJURY:**

All injuries should be reported to the coach and/or athletic director at the time they occur so further injury can be avoided. If you are injured, remember the following:

1. Tell the coach and/or athletic director that you are injured before leaving the field/court
2. No matter how small the injury, get treatment
  - A. *Athletes should be seen by an Orthopedic Dr. or through a sport clinic.*
  - B. A regular Dr will remove an athlete from competition for a minimum of 2 weeks even if it is a minor injury. (*Coaches will follow the Dr note to the letter, including dates*)
3. **No one** shall miss practice without a doctor's permission
4. Student-athletes are expected to attend team practices each day that attend school
5. A **second notice** from the doctor should be given to the coach to end physical restrictions
6. Anyone who becomes sick, nauseated, dizzy, and/or very hot should notify the coach and/or athletic director **IMMEDIATELY!!**

### **CLUB/SELECT TEAMS:**



Terrell County Athletics will take precedence over club or league competitions and practice sessions. Student-athletes will not be excused from Terrell County athletic practices or games in order to attend game or practice sessions for club or league teams. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to communicate his/her participation on club or league teams prior to the start of the season so that any potential conflicts may be worked out.

### **GAME CANCELLATION:**

In the event that the coach must cancel a practice, it is the responsibility of the coach and/or Athletic Director to notify the team and parents. Inclement weather does not determine whether practice will be held—the coach makes the determination. When available, indoor facilities may be used to hold practice in these circumstances. If a change is made in the practice schedule, parents and student-athletes will be notified as soon as possible. In most cases, it is the responsibility of the host school to make decisions regarding game cancellations. When hosting an event, Terrell County will make every effort to make cancellation decisions by 2:00pm on the day of the event. When a game is canceled, the coach may choose to hold a practice in its place. If the coach chooses to hold a practice in place of the canceled game, he/she will communicate this information to the parents and student-athletes as soon as possible.

### **FACILITY USAGE POLICY:**

Any usage of the facilities must be approved by the Superintendent and Athletic Director. Student-athletes must be accompanied by an approved faculty supervisor when using the facilities. Such usage must be pre-approved by the Athletic Director.

## **CONCERNS OR ISSUES:**

*(The Athlete will be present for Steps 2 and 3)*

**Step 1:** One of the greatest opportunities for student-athletes is learning skills for effective conflict resolution. When there is a concern, student-athletes are encouraged to speak with their coach directly. It can be very satisfying for all parties involved when student-athletes and coaches are able to find mutually agreeable solutions for an issue that they are trying to resolve.

**Step 2:** If the coach and student-athlete are unable to resolve the issue together, then parents may contact the coach. If a parent has a concern to discuss with the coach, the parent should contact the coach at an appropriate time for both parties. **An upset parent should wait at least 24 hours before approaching a coach or parent after an athletic event.** Under no circumstances should a parent approach a coach or another parent in a harsh manner immediately before, during, or immediately after a practice or a game. Taking this time to reflect on the situation, as well as honest and respectful communication should allow for more effective dialogue ensuring a more successful experience for everyone. It is not appropriate for a parent to request feedback from the coach about team strategy (*including playing time*), play calling, or other student-athletes. It is appropriate for a parent to contact the coach with concerns about their son/daughter's behavior, their skill development, and for physical treatment advice.

**Step 3:** If the discussion with the coach does not resolve the issue, parents and coaches may contact the Athletic Director to discuss the situation.



**Step 4:** If the Athletic Director is unable to provide a satisfactory resolution, the parent may contact the Principal.

**Any concerns or issues that do not follow the proper procedures will not be viewed as a viable complaint. At no time should a parent go directly to the Superintendent and circumvent the process laid forth by the Athletic Policy.**

Terrell County Athletics believes that at all levels—sixth grade through varsity—playing time in competition is earned in practice and is not an entitlement. Regardless of the subjective nature of the process and the potential for disagreement, the coach is the only one in a position to make team selections and decisions about playing time. Coaches **WILL NOT** discuss playing time with parents. Members of a varsity team are not guaranteed playing time. Student-athletes should fully understand that by joining a team they are accepting the pleasures and benefits of participating as well as the responsibility and commitment to that team. Participation in athletics is a **privilege, NOT a right**. Students can earn the privilege through hard work, dedication, desire, and self-discipline. All students that are currently enrolled in sixth — twelfth grade and attend Terrell County ISD are eligible to participate in athletics.

## **AWARDS & HONORS**

The presentation of awards in extra-curricular literary, band, or athletic events is governed by the University Interscholastic League (UIL). Local awards at end-of-year festivities will be determined by the codes set by individual activities. Scholarships will be determined by criteria set by individual organizations.

According to the U.I.L. (University Interscholastic League) regulations a student can receive only one letter jacket during a four-year tenure in high school. A student may earn a letter jacket the following ways:

- A letter for UIL Academic events will be awarded for winning first place in the district-level competition or making it to the State competition. Students must also participate for 2 years to receive an award jacket in UIL academics.
- The athlete must letter in more than one sport or letter in the same sport for two years.
- The athlete must make a substantial contribution to varsity sport. Students who earn their letterman jacket will receive it in the fall of their Junior or Senior year.

***Note: Completing a season in a sport does not mean that an athlete will letter on the varsity level.***

## Terrell County ISD ATHLETICS

### STUDENT ATHLETE GROWTH PLAN

Students who participate in the Terrell County ATHLETIC Program must meet the following performance requirements. All Athletes are expected to:

- Meet the UIL eligibility requirements of passing all subjects.
- Follow the student Athletic Handbooks
- Always display appropriate behavior.
- Be positive role models and leaders in School.
- Follow all rules set by Coaches, Teachers and Administrators

At this time \_\_\_\_\_ is not meeting the performance requirements in the following areas.

( ) Failure to remain eligible

( ) Too many tardies/absences

( ) Not dressing out in uniform daily

( ) Discipline problems:

\_\_\_\_\_

( ) Discipline assignments ( ISS, Suspension, detention, etc.)

( ) Poor attitude and/ or lack of respect towards Teachers, Coaches, Teammates

( ) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

The following plan is recommended:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Failure to meet these requirements may have the following results:

- Extra conditioning, Suspension from games or team, Program removal

# QUIT FORM:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, HAVE DECIDED AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO REMOVE MYSELF FROM THE TEAM. I HAVE BEEN GIVEN A TWO DAY (48 HOUR) CONSIDERATION PERIOD TO EVALUATE MY DECISION. I FEEL THAT THE BEST DECISION FOR MY TEAMMATES AND FOR MYSELF IS TO QUIT. I UNDERSTAND THAT BY QUITTING THE TEAM I WILL FORFEIT ANY PARTICIPATION IN THIS SPORT FOR A PERIOD ON ONE YEAR. I CAN RETURN AFTER THE APPROVAL OF THE HEAD COACH/AD. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT IF I QUIT AGAIN, I WILL FORFEIT ANY FUTURE PARTICIPATION IN THIS SPORT. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT I CANNOT START MY NEXT SPORT UNTIL THIS SEASON IS COMPLETE AND THAT I AM REQUIRED TO RUN MY 15 MILES; THAT I HAVE 30 DAYS TO DO SO.

STUDENT ATHLETE SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

HEAD COACH SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

# Athletic Bus Rider Policy

Our new bus is set to arrive this year, with a brand-new bus comes brand new procedures the students must follow for the bus to remain a source of pride for our community and look new for years to come. The procedures **WILL BE** followed, or the student athlete will be removed from bus riding privileges and the parent will be responsible for getting them to and from games.

Procedures include, but are not limited to:

- Student will be assigned a seat for the season and will not move seats for any reason.
- Student will remain seated in their seat until a coach inspects and releases them to move from their seat.
- All trash in their immediate vicinity will be the responsibility of the student to clean.
- All personal items will be the responsibility of the student.
- *Meals will be provided for athletes who ride to and from events. If an athlete leaves with a parent, the parent is responsible for feeding. If an athlete gets a meal and leaves with a parent, the parent will be charged the price of the meal, and the athlete will not be allowed to participate until compensation has been received.*

Damages to the bus by the student will be the responsibility of the student and parent to replace. These damages include, but are not limited to:

- Tears in the fabric of the seat or window screen
- Writing or carving into the seats or plastic trays/liners
- Food rubbed into the seat or floor

Conduct detrimental to or against athletic policy, on the bus will not be tolerated and the student will be removed. Any students in violation of the bus policy will receive the following repercussions:

- Written warning with student responsible for cleaning their mess and extra physical training at the next practice.
- Removal from bus riding privileges until compensation for damages is recovered.
- Removal from the bus for the rest of the season in which the athlete is playing.
- Removal from the bus for the rest of the year.
- Removal from the Athletic Program for the year.
- Suspension/ISS for large area damages.

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Student Signature                      Parent Signature                      Date

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**Acknowledgment of Receipt of Terrell County Athletics Policy Handbook**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ acknowledge that I have received a copy of the athletic handbook presented to me. I further understand that my child will be held accountable and is expected to abide by any rules set by the **District Policy, Athletic Director and Head Coaches.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Player's Signature

