

PEASTER Independent School District

Athletic Department Handbook, Policies and Procedures

OBJECTIVES OF PISD ATHLETICS

- ❖ The Peaster ISD Athletics program is an integral part of the total high school experience for our Greyhound Athletes. Our program offers a variety of sports and opportunities for all students who show potential skill and a desire to participate.
- ❖ Peaster ISD Athletics strives to instill and develop a sense of integrity, respect, accountability, and responsibility in all of our Greyhound athletes. We believe that our program provides the opportunity for student-athletes to grow into individuals who will have a positive impact in our community.
- ❖ Peaster ISD coaches will encourage and promote participation in multiple PISD Athletic activities, and will help create an environment that fosters the growth and development of all athletes through participation in various sports.

PISD ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

I. PARTICIPATION:

- ❖ No student is obligated to participate in PISD Athletics, nor is participation required.
- ❖ Participation in PISD Athletics is a privilege, not a right. As such, PISD Athletics may suspend or revoke participation privileges when standards and expectations of PISD Athletics and/or a PISD Athletics program are not met or followed.
- ❖ Peaster ISD Athletics offers opportunities for participation to every full time PISD student. Peaster ISD does not provide Athletics opportunities for students that do not meet the full-time enrollment requirements in PISD schools, including students participating in a home-school program.
- ❖ All sport programs require tryouts for teams, with the possibility of cuts being made. Tryout decisions will be made by the Head Coach/Sponsor for their sport and will be final.
- ❖ PISD Athletes that are in-season for any PISD sport shall not participate in conflicting club/select competitions without the approval of their Head Coach/Sponsor. Such participation without approval may lead to suspension and/or possible removal from the PISD athletics.
- ❖ Varsity athletes will not begin their next sport until the current sport season is complete. Sub-varsity athletes added to a post-season roster will be allowed to participate in their next sport at the discretion of each sport's Head Coach and the Athletic Director. Sub-varsity athletes will not be able to participate in scrimmages or games until their current sport season is complete.
- ❖ If an athlete is removed from a PISD Athletics program, they are not eligible for tryouts the following year without the approval of the Head Coach/Sponsor of that sport.
- ❖ **FOOTBALL/VOLLEYBALL (HIGH SCHOOL ONLY)**
 - Any currently enrolled student playing high school football/volleyball must fully participate in the strength and condition program in the spring semester (if they are not concurrently participating in a spring sport).

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- Any student who has not previously participated in athletics the prior year wants to play, he/she will be allowed to participate at the beginning of off-season (strength and conditioning) the following spring for Football or Volleyball.

II. ACADEMICS:

- ❖ All PISD Athletics programs will follow UIL Eligibility Guidelines for sport participation. Participants must meet all eligibility requirements for their sport and UIL Eligibility throughout the year to be considered for participation in all PISD Athletics programs.
- ❖ Eligibility status of all athletes will be under the supervision of Head Coaches/Sponsors in all PISD Athletics programs. Coaches/Sponsors will implement periodic eligibility checks throughout the school year to ensure all participants meet the expected requirements. Coaches/Sponsors have the authority to implement a higher standard of academic expectation for the participants in their programs.
- ❖ Ineligible students are expected to attend all scheduled activities in which they are allowed to participate. Ineligible athletes are prohibited from dressing out for contests, traveling to contests, participating in any game/contest that is not a practice or scrimmage, or sitting on the bench/sideline during a contest.
- ❖ Athletes who do not meet UIL or program requirements for eligibility may be subject to extra conditioning, suspension, and/or possible removal from athletics programs.

III. ATHLETIC CLASS PERIODS:

- ❖ PISD athletes will be afforded the opportunity to participate in athletics classes offered during the school day, if they have received approval from the Head Coach/Sponsor of that UIL sport. Enrollment in a sport's athletic period, at any time during the year, must be made with approval from the Head Coach/Sponsor of that sport and the Athletic Director.
- ❖ Athletes in an athletic period will receive a grade based upon the criteria for that class as determined by the Athletic Director and Head Coach/Sponsor of that sport.
- ❖ All athletes participating in the following sports **MUST** be enrolled in an Athletic Period beginning in the Fall Semester: football, volleyball, basketball, baseball, and softball. Unless approved by the Athletic Director.
- ❖ The athletic periods will run according to schedule each day. U.I.L. guidelines will be followed. We expect our athletes to work year round to become their very best.

IV. ATTENDANCE:

- ❖ PISD athletes and participants are required to attend all scheduled events for their sport(s).
- ❖ **Absences must pre approved by the coach/sponsor approved before absences.**
- ❖ Excused absences including, illness, family death, or participation in a school function will require student athletes to make up time/work missed.

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- ❖ Communication ahead of time for tardies, absences, or any attendance concern must be communicated with the coach/sponsor of your sport. Communication after the fact is not allowable for consideration of an excused absence/tardiness.
- ❖ Absences that occur without prior approval from the coach/sponsor will result in additional conditioning in addition to completing work missed.
- ❖ Excessive absenteeism/tardiness will result in additional conditioning and/or possible suspension/removal from PISD Athletics at the discretion of the Athletic Director and Head Coach/Sponsor.
- ❖ Athletes are required to be on time, clearly communicate with their coaches, and display promptness in all manners of athletics.

V. BEHAVIOR AND CONDUCT

- ❖ All PISD athletes are required to protect the integrity of our community, school, and athletic programs at all times.
- ❖ All PISD athletes will maintain high character and display respect to all peers, coaches, teachers, administrators, and PISD staff and community members.
- ❖ All PISD athletes will conduct themselves in a respectable manner at all times. This includes how athletes act, speak, and treat others.
- ❖ All PISD athletes will be expected to give their best effort in all they do, inside the classroom and on the field/court.
- ❖ PISD athletes' appearance should, at all times, reflect class and pride in themselves and in the PISD athletic program. Student athletes must follow the District's dress code at all times.
- ❖ Misconduct will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary actions at the discretion of the Athletic Director and Head Coach/Sponsor of each sport.

VI. ATHLETICS COMMUNICATION PROCESS

- ❖ Before the start of each sport, the head coach will conduct a mandatory parent meeting regarding athletic program rules, policies, and specific team rules will be distributed during the specific sport meetings.
- ❖ Chain of command will always be followed. If at any time, an athlete or parent has an issue/concern with a coach or athletic program, the following process should be followed:
 1. Athlete meets with the Head Coach and/or coach to discuss any issues/concerns.
 2. If the issue persists, parents and athlete meet with the Head Coach and/or coach.
 3. If the issue persists, parents and athlete meet with the head coach and Athletic Director.
- ❖ Except for student health or safety issues, coaches should never be approached to discuss a problem or complaint immediately preceding or following a game or practice.

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- ❖ Athletes will always be present for athletic meetings.

VII. PROGRAM DISCIPLINE

- ❖ Our goal for all PISD athletes is to always represent our programs in a positive manner.
- ❖ **Disciplinary consequences of student athletes will not be discussed with other students' parents. Discipline issues will be addressed on a case-by-case basis and following the athletic code conduct/athletic policies.**
- ❖ Disciplinary behaviors that will be addressed (not limited to):
 - Conduct detrimental to the program
 - Quitting
 - Stealing
 - Fighting
 - Disrespectful to school personnel
 - Negative Issues on Social Media, (Pictures, comments, etc.)
 - Persistent misconduct
- ❖ Discipline levels will dictate how offenses will be handled in terms of disciplinary action. The three levels will be defined as follows:
 - **Level 1 Offense**
A Level 1 offense will result in immediate removal from the program. Athletes will have to go through the readmission procedure before the next season starts. In some instances, they may be removed from athletics entirely for the remainder of the school year or for the remainder of their time as a PISD student. Readmission is at the discretion of the Athletic Director and Head Coach/Sponsor of each sport.
 - **Level 2 Offense**
A Level 2 offense will result in a form of conditioning consequence, and potentially suspension and/or removal from the program. A second Level 2 offense can result in the same disciplinary procedures as a Level 1— case by case basis.
 - **Level 3 Offense**
A Level 3 offense is minor behavioral problems. ISS time or school suspensions are Level 3 offenses. Most of these will be handled within athletics with conditioning. Continuous Level-3 offenses will be treated as a Level 2 offense.

VIII. EQUIPMENT and UNIFORMS

- ❖ Peaster ISD will issue the proper equipment for each sport.
- ❖ **The athlete will be held responsible for his/ her own equipment.** Athletes will be responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged equipment.

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- ❖ Any athlete misusing equipment, or using another athlete's equipment, will be subject to disciplinary action.
- ❖ **Any athlete who is caught stealing will be automatically placed under a level 2 offense and disciplined accordingly.**
- ❖ An athlete will not be allowed to participate in another sport until his or her equipment record is clear in the previous sport.

IX. ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FORMS

- ❖ All PISD athletes will be required to complete all UIL and PISD Athletics participation forms prior to participation in 7-12 grade athletics through RankOne.
- ❖ All incoming 7th, 9th and 11th grade athletes and any athlete who has never had a physical is required to have a physical examination before participating in any athletic contest.
- ❖ An athlete who moves into the district should have a copy of his or her physical examination or make arrangements to get it.
- ❖ RankOne Forms will include (not limited to):
 - *Acknowledgment of Rules Form*
 - *Concussion Acknowledgement Form*
 - *Parent/Student Steroid Agreement Form*
 - *Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form*
 - *Code of Conduct*
 - *Handbook Acknowledgement Form*
 - *Medical Examination Form*
 - *Medical History Form*

X. INJURIES/TRAINING ROOM

- ❖ All injuries will be reported to coaches and trainers upon occurrence.
- ❖ Athletic Trainers will evaluate injuries and determine if further evaluation is needed from a medical professional.
- ❖ For pre-existing injuries, treatment will occur **BEFORE** school each day. Students should not seek treatment during the athletic period.
- ❖ Injuries taking place during athletics or practice will immediately be reported to the Athletic Trainer for assessment and treatment.
- ❖ Athletic Trainers will communicate the rehabilitation plan with coaches, and provide injury note updates through RankOne for all athletes receiving treatment/rehab.
- ❖ Injured athletes are expected to dress out for all treatment, rehabilitation, and scheduled team practices/activities.
- ❖ If an athlete must seek medical attention from a medical professional, a note will be needed to begin evaluation, rehabilitation, and return to play process with our Athletic Trainers.

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XI. LETTERING

- ❖ First-time Varsity athletes that complete the program requirements, and finish the season in good standing for the specific sport, will receive a school athletic jacket. This is ordered at the end of the season and presented to the athlete.
- ❖ All additional patches or decorations for the jacket will be the responsibility of the individual student.
- ❖ To letter, an athlete must meet three requirements.
 - He / She must compete in a specified number of interscholastic contests at the varsity level.
 - He / She must be recommended for lettering by the Athletic Director or by the Head Coach.
 - He / She must **complete** the season in good standing as a team member.
- ❖ Letter requirements for each sport are as follows:
 - Football – To letter in varsity football, an athlete must be on the varsity team for at least ½ the season.
 - Basketball & Volleyball – To letter in varsity basketball or volleyball, an athlete must be on the varsity team for at least ½ the season.
 - Powerlifting – To letter in powerlifting, an athlete must participate in three powerlifting meets and complete all lifts in at least two meets.
 - Track – To letter in track, an athlete must score a minimum of 10 points total in invitational varsity meets or score 1 point at the Varsity level district track meet.
 - Golf – To letter in golf, a student must compete in two regular season tournaments and the district tournament as a member of the varsity team.
 - Tennis – To earn a letter in tennis, a student must compete in at least one-half of the regular season tournaments and the district tournament as a member on the varsity team and win at least one set.
 - Cross Country - To letter in CC, an athlete must compete in two regular season meets and point at the District meet.
 - Baseball & Softball – To letter in varsity baseball or softball, an athlete must compete in a minimum of ten games at the varsity level. If no Junior Varsity team is fielded due to lack of numbers, student must compete in a minimum of 30 innings to letter.
- ❖ **All final decisions concerning athletic letters for participants will be at the discretion of the Head Coach of the sport and the Athletic Director.**

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XII. LOCKER ROOMS

- ❖ All PISD Athletics Programs have designated locker rooms with showers provided, and assigned lockers for all participants.
- ❖ All athletes will be responsible for maintaining a clean locker and locker room.
- ❖ Phone use in any manner is prohibited in all PISD locker rooms. Violation of this policy may result in removal from PISD Athletics programs.
- ❖ Athletes will be provided their assigned locker for the duration of the current school year, and will only utilize a different locker for the following reasons:
 - Multi-sport participants will be provided a locker in the facility that houses each program's lockers (Ex: If a volleyball player participates in softball, they will have a volleyball locker in the fall, and will be provided a softball locker in the spring.)
 - If an athlete chooses to end participation in one program and join another, that athlete will only utilize the locker provided in the locker room that coordinates with their active sport.
- ❖ Athletes who end their participation in all programs, or are removed from PISD Athletics, will no longer be provided an Athletics locker.

XIII. QUITTING POLICY

- ❖ Quitting is a very serious decision, and should be discussed with the Head Coach before a final decision is made by an athlete.
- ❖ Parents will be contacted to verify the athlete's intention to quit immediately.
- ❖ It will be the Head Coach's discretion to allow the student to come back at a later date.
- ❖ Athletes that quit a sport for any reason need to understand that their decision is most likely permanent.

When a student makes the decision to quit, it is important for the student athlete to demonstrate commitment prior to returning to the athletic program. Students wanting to be readmitted into athletics will have to run 3 miles for 5 consecutive school days. This reinstatement opportunity is under the discretion of the head coach and Athletic Director.

XIV. SUBSTANCE ABUSE- TOBACCO, DRUGS, ALCOHOL:

- ❖ Students who represent Peaster ISD Athletics in any University Interscholastic League activity are expected to exemplify the highest standards of conduct.
- ❖ Use of alcohol, tobacco, and /or drugs **will not be tolerated**. Specifically, students prohibited from selling, delivering, possessing, providing or using drugs. Students are prohibited from being present at social gatherings where alcoholic beverages or controlled/illegal substances are present. (Use or possession of other forms of drugs or controlled substances may be dealt with differently according to the law.)
- ❖ An athlete agrees to abide by this Substance Abuse Policy and its consequences for his/her entire tenure at Peaster High School.

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- ❖ Alcohol/Drug Use Consequences: Minimal discipline actions up to a level 1.
 - **1st Strike**
8 Miles running, 8,000 yards bear crawls, 500 word essay over alcoholism or drug abuse, team and parent apology, 1 hour counseling with Head Coach or Athletic Director. Must be completed before competition play.
 - **2nd Strike**
Mandatory suspension of 2 games, 2 scrimmages or 1 tournament, 15 miles running, 12,000 yard bear crawls, 1,000 word essay on Leadership, 5 hours of community service. Must be completed before competition play.
 - **3rd Strike**
6 week suspension, 25 miles of running, 18,000 yards bear crawls, 10 hours of community service, possibility of 2 Alcohol Anonymous meetings.
 - **4th Strike**
Meeting with the parents, athlete, athletic director and High School Principal about the next steps needed to help our athlete with recovery and/or removal from athletic programs.

- ❖ All consequences will be under the Head Coach's supervision, and mandatory daily practice through each level of offense.
- ❖ If Strike 1 offense occurs and the athlete goes one full year without another occurrence with alcohol or drug abuse, he/she will repeat Strike 1.
- ❖ If Strike 2 is reached in the same year then the following levels will be carried out for the rest of the athlete's career at Peaster High School.
- ❖ **Strikes will be carried out only if the Athletic Director is informed by the athlete, athlete's parents, Peaster ISD administration or local authorities.**

XV. ATHLETICS TRAVEL

- ❖ All team members are required to travel to and from competition in school provided vehicles unless prior authorization is obtained through the Head Coach.
- ❖ Extenuating circumstances that necessitate an exception to this rule must be presented to the Head Coach of the team **by the parents or legal guardian** of the student involved.
- ❖ Authorization must be granted in writing before the trip begins, and students will only be allowed to leave with their parents or legal guardian with approval. Final approval is at the discretion of the Head Coach of each sport.

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PEASTER I.S.D. ATHLETIC HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

Participating in Athletics is a privilege. It is important that all students taking part in an Athletics program understand and conform to the rules therein, and that the coaches of the sport or activity have the authority to remove these privileges. Since participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a right, Peaster I.S.D. is authorized to set higher standards for participants of extracurricular activities than it would for those students who choose not to participate in these activities. Therefore, this Athletic Handbook extends beyond the Peaster I.S.D. Code of Conduct, not only in types of behavior prohibited, but also in corresponding consequences and jurisdiction for imposing discipline. We have both read the Peaster I.S.D. Athletic Department Handbook and fully understand all of the policies of the Peaster I.S.D. Athletic Department Handbook. We both agree to support and abide by all policies.

Athlete's Printed Name _____

Athlete's Signature _____

Date _____

Parent's or Guardian's Printed Name _____

Parent's or Guardian's Signature _____

Date _____

(The Athletic Director will deal with any circumstance not covered in the Athletic Guidelines.)

***PLEASE RETURN SIGNED FORM TO THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

In accordance with Title IX, the district does not discriminate on the basis of sex and is required not to discriminate on the basis of sex in its educational programs or activities. The requirement not to discriminate extends to employment. Inquiries about the application of Title IX may be referred to the district's Title IX overseer, to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the Department of Education, or both.