

ROPES INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Beau Riker, Athletic Director

304 Ranch Road Ropesville, TX 79358 • 806-562-4031 • www.ropesisd.us

RISD Athletic Code of Conduct

Athletic activities are very important to Ropes ISD and participation at all levels in a variety of activities is highly encouraged. Participating in athletic activities is an option and a privilege, and with that privilege comes responsibilities and requirements. Students are expected to conduct themselves in an exemplary fashion that will be a source of pride to the school district and the community. An athletic participant is a representative of the school at all times during the year, not only when they participate (weekends, summer, 24/7; 365 days a year).

All athletic activity participants in grades 7-12 will be subject to the provisions of this Athletic Code of Conduct.

To reinforce the added responsibility that comes with the privilege of participating in athletic activities, Ropes ISD has adopted these written rules in addition to the "Student Code of Conduct" (SCC). Violations and penalties outlined herein are separate from and may be applied in addition to, the Consequences for Positive Results under the district's "Mandatory Drug Testing Program."

The Athletic Code of Conduct will be the responsibility of, and will be administered by, the Athletic Director and all athletic coaches. Nothing in this athletic Code of Conduct, however, limits the authority of a coach to impose reasonable sanctions, including extra workouts, for students who breach team expectations but do not engage in prohibited conduct.

The Athletic policy is divided into three categories of violations:

Category 1 – Student Code of Conduct Violations

Category 2 – Student Misconduct and Tobacco Violations

Category 3 – Serious Misconduct, Alcohol and Controlled Substances

Violations

Each category of violations has disciplinary actions reflective of the infraction. In most cases, disciplinary actions will be contained within the category of violation but as noted in the Administrator Discretion portion of this policy, multiple violations across various categories may result in stricter penalties.



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Grounds for a Violation

The intent of the Athletic Policy is to uphold a high standard for our students and empower them to make sound decisions amidst temptation and peer pressure. The Athletic Director, athletic coaches, and campus administration will investigate activities that fall within the following guidelines.

In order for a student to be considered in violation, any one of the following conditions, but not limited to, must occur:

1. The student or the student's parent(s) self-report or admit to a violation*
2. A Ropes ISD staff member observes and reports the student violation.
3. A law enforcement report or citation** is filed. (Examples of citations would include, but not limited to, DWI – driving while intoxicated, DUI – driving under the influence, MIP – minor in possession and MIC – minor in consumption).

Note: external photographs, videos, or other print or electronic media cannot be used as the sole source of evidence of a violation.

*When a student and their parent(s) self-report a violation that also identifies other students that may have participated, the campus administrator will immediately contact the parents of the other students.

**Any member of an athletic organization is expected to notify the head coach immediately upon any arrest or citations other than general traffic violations. Failure to notify the coach responsible for the team or activity may result in suspension or dismissal from the athletic program. Local law enforcement agencies often report to campus administration when students are cited and all citations are publicly posted.

Cumulative Nature of Violations

Violations under the Athletic Code of Conduct are cumulative throughout the student's enrollment in grades 9-12 at Ropes ISD. Violations that occur in grades 7-8 may carry over into high school depending on the nature and severity of the offense.

Administrator Discretion

The violations and consequences found within this policy are to guide the decision-making process in a consistent manner. As each student and each set of



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circumstances are unique, there is a level of administrator discretion required throughout the process. It is at the Athletic Director's discretion to reevaluate any decision that is made under this policy, as well as reinstate students to athletic activities and programs.

Appeal Process

The student and/or parent has the right to appeal a student's loss of participation in athletic activities through the RISD Board Policy FNG (Local). Disciplinary consequences will not be deferred pending the outcome of an appeal.

ISS and DAEP Policy

If the student athlete has ISS on a day of a game, meet, or event, he/she will not be allowed to participate until the time served and make-ups are completed. Practice will be allowed before or after school but not while the student is in ISS.

An athlete who has DAEP will follow the same rules as ISS, except the athlete cannot participate in practices during the term of DAEP.

Dress Code & Appearance

Ropes ISD athletes act as representatives of the school and community and therefore are required to exhibit a well-groomed and appropriate appearance. This appearance will be exhibited the ENTIRE school year (not just when the athlete is in season). All athletes will abide by the RISD Student Handbook in addition to the athletic code of conduct.

- A. Hair and facial grooming will meet the standards of the board policy.
- B. Tattoos and/or male piercings will not be tolerated.
 - a. an athlete with such markings/tattoos on his/her body and who wishes to participate in extracurricular activities shall ensure the markings are covered by the standard for the activity in compliance with board policy.

Likewise, athletes are expected to comply with the following rules in order to participate at Ropes ISD

1. On game days, varsity athletes are expected to try to dress as a team. The head coach of the team will make this decision. This is part of having team unity and school pride.



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2. School issued workout apparel should not be worn outside of the normal workout routines. (Ex. at school, at home, or on the weekends around town)

Transition from Old Policy to Revised Athletic Code of Conduct

Students who have previously committed an offense on the old Athletic Policy (prior to 2025-26) will meet with the Athletic Director to review how that infraction impacts their standing in this revised Athletic Code of Conduct. For example, if a student committed an infraction and served a suspension, they would maintain their offense, but their next similar offense would warrant a suspension for a second offense of the same infraction in the revised code of conduct.

Transfer Students

Any student who transfers in with a record of offenses found within this policy will maintain those offenses and transition to the equivalent level within this policy. Furthermore, any transfer student who commits an offense in violation of this policy may face revocation of their transfer status at the discretion of RISD Administration.

Locker Room Conduct

Cell phones are not allowed for use in any locker room, whether at home or on the road as visitors.

Parents are not allowed in locker rooms at any time without permission from the head coach.

Athlete expectations extend to the locker room. Coaches will not tolerate horseplay, bullying, hazing, and other similar behaviors. Athletes are expected to keep their spaces clean and tidy.

Quitting

Quitting is a serious character flaw and bad habit that can not be allowed. In the bigger picture, it is more important to instill in our youth, character and the ability to not quit when times get tough. We are not going to make quitting easy or acceptable for any reason.



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We do recognize that a student should have time to “try” a sport out if it is not what a student wants to do, he/she can stop without loss of privilege. However, there comes a time when the commitment to the team becomes a factor.

With this in mind, a player has a probationary time at the beginning of each sport to decide to play without loss of privilege. Probationary time is the time from the beginning of the sport until the week of the first game for football. If the season has started they have 12 calendar days of workout to “try it out” (basketball, baseball, softball, track & field, and volleyball). If a player quits after the probationary period, he/she will not participate in any sport for the remainder of the school year. An athlete who quits any sport forfeits his/her claim to any awards or letters.

Golf

A student does not have to be enrolled in an athletic period to compete in golf; however, all golf participants must adhere to the Athletic Code of Conduct and are subject to all rules imposed by the Athletic Director.

Cheerleading vs. Athletics

As an athlete you have chosen to be committed to a team. No athlete will be allowed to choose to cheer instead of competing in a contest with her team. Any athlete that makes this choice will be suspended from their next game. The only exception to this rule is for a UIL sanctioned cheer competition, in which case, the cheerleader may choose cheerleading over athletics.

Category 1 – Student Code of Conduct Violations

Violations of the Student Code of Conduct that result in Suspension, DAEP, or Expulsion will result in the **loss of privilege to participate** in any athletic activity during the period of suspension, placement in a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program, or expulsion.

Category 2 – Student Misconduct and Tobacco Violations

Students who participate in athletic activities shall comply with the following expectations at all times, on or off campus, regardless of whether school is in session.

1. Display academic integrity (no cheating or plagiarism)
2. Respect possessions of others (no stealing or conspiracy to steal)



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3. Refrain from all forms of tobacco (no use or possession of tobacco or tobacco related products)
4. Refrain from offensive conduct (no engaging in lewd, disruptive, or other offensive conduct that affronts school district standards of propriety, including but not limited to possessing or sharing any compromising, suggestive, vulgar or otherwise inappropriate photos, text or media of any kind).
5. Conduct oneself in an exemplary fashion (no other misconduct as determined by principal/coach/sponsor).

Students who violate these guidelines are subject to **Category 2** consequences as follows:

1st Offense: Parent notification by Coach and extra conditioning or practice.

2nd Offense: Parent contact by Coach, extra conditioning or practice, and school/community service.

3rd Offense: Parent meeting with Coach, extra conditioning or practice; school/community service, and possible gametime suspension (at the discretion of the Athletic Director and head coach).

All school/community service hours must be pre-approved by the Athletic Director and Principal and completed in the timeframe set by these administrators.

If the violation occurs at a time during the school year when the athletic activities in which the student participates are not occurring; or if the violation occurs when the student is not participating in athletic activities because of the student's academic standing, a health-related reason, or any other reason, the suspension period will not begin until the time the student would otherwise begin participation or otherwise be eligible or able to participate in athletic activities. A student who violates the policy may not join a second activity for the purpose of fulfilling the penalty. Subsequent offenses beyond the third Category 2 offense shall result in a Category 3 violation.

Category 3 – Serious Misconduct, Alcohol and Drugs Violations

The following infractions are strictly prohibited:

1. Continuation of Category 2 Offenses
2. Using, possessing, or being under the influence of an alcoholic beverage



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3. Using, possessing or being under the influence of marijuana, a controlled substance, a dangerous drug, abusable glue, aerosol paint, steroids, or any other mood-changing, mind-altering, or behavior-affecting drug
4. Knowingly and intentionally remaining at an activity where alcohol and/or drugs are being consumed illegally.
5. Possessing drug paraphernalia (as defined by Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code)
6. Participating in other criminal activity

Upon the administration's determination that a Ropes ISD student participating in a school-sponsored athletic activity has violated any of the infractions enumerated above, the student shall be subject to disciplinary action and shall lose the privilege of further participation in that activity as provided below.

1st Offense:

- Parent notification by the Coach/Director
- 1 week suspension (7 days) from all athletic activities (practice permitted) with a minimum one game suspension
- 1 week of extra conditioning or practice
- Placed on Mandatory drug testing list for the remainder of the student's participation in athletic activities (if offense is drug/alcohol-related)

2nd Offense:

- Parent meeting with the Coach/Director/Sponsor
- 15 hours of approved school/community service hours
- 3 week suspension (21 days) from all athletic activities (practice permitted) with a minimum three game suspension
- 3 weeks of extra conditioning or practice
- Remain on the Mandatory drug testing list for the remainder of the student's participation in athletic activities (if offense is drug/alcohol-related)

3rd Offense:

- Parent meeting with the Coach/Director/Sponsor
- 30 hours of approved school/community service
- 6 week suspension (42 days) from all athletic activities (permission to practice determined by coach/sponsor)



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- Remain on the Mandatory drug testing list for the remainder of the student's participation in athletic activities (if offense is drug/alcohol-related)

4th Offense:

- Parent meeting with by the Coach/Director/Sponsor
- One calendar-year suspension from all athletic programs.
- Remain on the Mandatory drug testing list for the remainder of the student's participation in athletic activities (if offense is drug/alcohol-related)
- Any further offense will result in complete removal from all athletic programs for the remainder of the student's athletic career.

All school/community service hours must be pre-approved by the Athletic Director and Principal and completed during a timeframe chosen by these administrators. If the violation occurs at a time during the school year when the athletic activities in which the student participates are not occurring; or if the violation occurs when the student is not participating in athletic activities because of the student's academic standing, a health-related reason, or for any other reason, the suspension period will not begin until the time the student would otherwise begin participation or otherwise be eligible or able to participate in athletic activities. A student who violates the policy may not join a second activity for the purpose of fulfilling the penalty.

Updated & Reviewed 8/11/2025



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Athletic Code of Conduct Statement & Signatures

I, the undersigned, have read the Ropes ISD Athletic Code of Conduct and fully understand what is expected of me as a representative of Ropes ISD. I understand the consequences of failure to comply with the Ropes ISD Athletic Code of Conduct, as outlined above.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

I, the undersigned, have read the Ropes ISD Athletic Code of Conduct and fully understand what is expected of my child as a participant representing Ropes ISD. I understand the consequences of my child's failure to comply with the Ropes ISD Athletic Code of Conduct, as outlined above.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

