

CALALLEN ISD

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT



2025-2026

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

Purpose of the Athletic Handbook

This handbook has been developed to establish a foundation for all athletes, coaches, teachers, administrators, and community members to build upon. It is imperative that all involved are of one philosophy and objective to avoid confusion and personal agendas. The expectations for athletes and their coaches within the Calallen Independent School District Athletic Department are high since athletic competition is highly visible within the community. Therefore, this handbook has been developed with full consideration and recognition.

Philosophy of Athletics

Interscholastic athletics is an integral part of the overall education process. A successful athletic program will enable a student-athlete to realize the power of reaching his/her full potential. In most situations, the athletic program's overall success sets the entire school's tone and atmosphere. Athletics create opportunities for developing a positive self-image. Finally, the most crucial aspect of the athletic program is to develop young men and women to become constructive, contributing members of society.

Calallen Athletic Program Mission

To build CHAMPIONS for LIFE through athletics!

Calallen Athletic Vision Statement

To be a program whose teams consistently compete for championships, and whose players become difference makers in life because of the UNCOMMON traits of a winner they acquire in athletics.

Parent/Coach Relationships

Communication Coaches Expect from the Parents

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance
- Notification of injury or illness promptly

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches

- Coach's interaction with your child
- Ways to help your child improve athletic skills
- Concern about your child's interaction with others

Topics Left to the Coaches Discretion

- Playing time
- Play calling
- Team strategy
- Other students/athletes

Parent-Coach Meeting Procedure

- Call or email the coach to request a meeting
- If the coach is unavailable, call the Athletic Director and request a meeting to be arranged
- Do not confront a coach before or after a practice or game. Meetings of this nature usually do not promote positive resolutions.

If the issue cannot be resolved with a parent-coach meeting, the parent should follow the line of communication listed below:

- Call the Head Coach of the sport your child is participating in

- Call the Director of Athletics
- Call the Campus Principal

Behavior Expectations for Spectators

Behavior Expectations of Student Groups

- Always provide positive support for your team. Never ridicule or degrade the opposing team or players.
- Conduct yourself in an exemplary manner. Remember that you represent your school both at home and away.
- Assist cheerleaders with yells, chants, etc. Always be a working part of pep assemblies with preparation, organization, and involvement.
- Treat opposing players, coaches, spectators, and support groups respectfully and enthusiastically. Applaud good performances on both teams. Doing this will show that you understand and can recognize good performance, regardless of team affiliation.
- Always display proper sportsmanship toward officials and value their contributions to the game. Respect the judgments made during a contest. All calls are impartial and should be accepted by all parties.
- Use only positive cheers, signs, and chants during a contest. This will show that you understand proper sportsmanship while giving your organization and school a good reputation.

Behavior Expectations of Spectators

- Always support your team and the efforts of all participants involved.
- Do not intimidate or ridicule a player, coach, or official before, during, or after a contest. Always praise athletes for their actions during a game; never degrade a participant for their efforts. Athletics are a learning experience for students, and mistakes will be made. • A ticket is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious.
- Learn the game's rules so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations occur. Always respect the integrity and judgment of officials. They are present to regulate the flow and enforce the game's rules. An official should never be degraded or ridiculed for a call they make. • Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators, and support groups. Treat them as guests to your school.
- Use only cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- Refrain from using any controlled substance (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before, during, and after the game, on, or near the event's site (i.e., tailgating).
- Be a positive role model at events through your actions and by censuring those around you whose behavior is unbecoming.

Calallen ISD athletes represent their school, family, and team 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. As a result, athletes will be held to a higher standard in school and community. This higher standard requires great responsibility; athletes may have to demonstrate restraint when dealing with challenging situations.

Athlete Code of Conduct

There are many advantages of being a member of an athletic team in the Calallen Independent School District. In fact, there are so many that it would be difficult to list them all. Nevertheless, there are some realities each athlete needs to be aware of before accepting the challenge of becoming a student-athlete for his/her school.

1. You may practice and never get to start.

2. Training rules may cramp your social life. Sacrifices will be necessary.
3. You will have to practice every day after school, Saturdays, and possibly on holidays.
4. Less study time will be available, yet you must pass to be eligible to play.
5. Do not expect favors because you are an athlete; expect a challenge.
6. You will be expected to be well-behaved on and off the field. What you do off the field may get you dismissed.
7. You will be expected to follow the Calallen ISD Student Code of Conduct.

Most things listed in the Athletic Code of Conduct should be self-imposed rules. If you lack the self discipline to adhere to those rules, it may be necessary for the Athletic Department to instigate disciplinary action, possibly even permanent dismissal.

Conduct of an Athlete

1. No Profanity or trash talk. Remember, people do not see you; they see the school's name.
2. Truancy and unexcused absences are unacceptable.
3. No jewelry during practice or games.
4. Go to practice. There are very few acceptable excuses to miss a practice.
5. Any athlete that quits a sport will not be allowed to go to another sport until the sport he/she quit has finished or they receive consent from all coaches involved. Also, note that any athlete who quits or is dismissed from a sport, forfeits that sport's athletic award.
6. If a student becomes academically ineligible for two grading periods in a row, they may be dismissed from athletics. The student can be reinstated when academic stability is demonstrated.
7. NO HAZING! (Hazing: any activity intentionally taken for the purpose of initiation in which any student(s) humiliates, degrades, or physically or mentally abuses any other student.)
8. Being in an environment of alcohol, tobacco, or any illegal substance or activity is prohibited. If you are at a party, in a car, etc., where drugs and alcohol are present, **LEAVE!** Do not be found guilty by association.
9. Engaging in inappropriate or indecent exposure of private body parts or sexual conduct in locker rooms or playing fields/courts or while on athletic trips will not be tolerated.
10. Any conduct that results in an arrest and/or citations other than a traffic violation from law enforcement officers will not be tolerated.

Violations of rules may result in but are not limited to the following actions:

1. Punishment deemed appropriate by head coach
2. Discipline contracts
3. Suspension from game/games
4. Suspension from an athletic team
5. Suspension from the athletic program
6. Permanent removal from the athletic program

The Code is in force twelve (12) months a year, grades seven through twelve (7-

12). **Equipment**

The athletic department will maintain a record of all school-owned equipment issued to athletes. It is the player's responsibility to take care of such equipment. The player will be required to pay for any lost items. If an item of equipment is lost, a replacement fee paid, and the item is subsequently found – it must be returned. A refund will be given with a receipt. Students who owe for equipment will be placed on the fees and fines list, and possibly not be able to begin their next sport before reconciling their lost equipment.

Participation in Multiple Sports

Student-athletes have one chance to participate in interscholastic athletics. Athletes are encouraged to participate in as many sports as their interests and abilities permit.

Non-School Sponsored Sports

Calallen ISD Athletic Coaching Staff expects school-sponsored sports to take precedence over non-school sponsored sports. Therefore, athletes who miss practice or contests due to participating in clubs or leagues without the head coach's permission are subject to disciplinary action. Punishment for missing practices or a UIL contest for outside leagues and clubs includes but is not limited to the following.

- Loss of playing time
- Change in team status (Varsity to J.V.)
- Game suspension
- Removal from team
- Dismissal from Calallen ISD athletics

Transportation to and from Games

Calallen ISD Athletic Coaching Staff expects athletes to ride the bus to and from games with the team. However, we also recognize that it may become necessary for a parent to arrange alternate transportation for their son/daughter in certain situations. Should this arise, the parent should contact the sport's head coach as soon as possible and arrange a meeting to discuss the situation. Suppose the sport's head coach permits the athlete to provide alternate transportation. In that case, the parent must give the coach a written note stating that their child has permission to have alternate transportation home.

Social/Electronic Media

Coaches are subject to applicable state and federal laws, local policies, administrative regulations, and the Educator's Code of Ethics related to social/electronic media use. The district permits coaches and other approved employees to communicate with students through the use of electronic media within the scope of the individual's professional responsibilities. For example, a coach may set up a communication app, such as SportsYou, for his or her team with information about practices and/or games. As a parent, you are welcome to join or become a member of such a page.

UIL Required Forms

All athletic program participants must complete and file all UIL required forms each year to be eligible for athletic participation. These forms must be on file before participating in a practice session, scrimmage, or game (both in-season and out-of-season). All physicals must be completed on the Calallen ISD Physical Form. The campus athletic trainer must be made aware of any existing conditions or limitations that may impact the performance of an athlete

Athletic Injury/Illness

The health of all athletes is very important to all coaches and the athletic training staff. If an athlete becomes ill or injured, they should inform the campus athletic trainer and head coach as soon as possible. If a parent feels their child needs to see a doctor about an injury, they need to make sure and communicate with the campus athletic trainer. If an athlete goes to the doctor, written instructions from the doctor relating to the care and treatment of the athlete must be turned in to the campus athletic trainer. All athletes under a doctor's care must have a written release to return to activity. Whenever an athlete is injured or has an illness of a minor nature, the athlete may be required to dress out (but not participate) and stay with their group during the workout. Athletes can learn from each practice session, whether working out or observing. You should contact the campus athletic trainer if you have questions about your child's injury or illness.

Insurance

Student participation in athletics is voluntary. Calallen ISD provides an accidental secondary insurance policy. Questions about this policy should be directed to the high school athletic trainers.

Procedures for Handling Claims and Medical Bills:

The campus athletic trainers will initiate a claim form for every athletic-related injury. Claims on injuries will be administered and tracked by the athletic trainers. Questions about insurance claims should be directed to the high school athletic trainers.

I have read and agree to the following **Pledge**:

As an athlete in Calallen ISD, I promise:

1. To be a worthy representative of my teammates and coaches, abiding by school and program expectations and reflecting my team's values of commitment and hard work.
2. To reflect the knowledge that a commitment to victory is nothing without the commitment to hard work in practice.
3. To attend every practice unless excused by my coach.
4. Understanding my future habits of success as a responsible adult relates to how I commit to my academic and athletic activities.
5. To find the time to satisfy my family relationships and responsibilities.
6. To accept the responsibilities of team membership: cooperation, support of my teammates, shared responsibilities, positive interaction, and mutual respect.
7. To reflect my belief that a true winner demonstrates integrity, discipline, and self-respect in all things.

Parents and Athletes Agreement

I certify that I have read and understand the 2024-25 Athletic Handbook in its entirety, and that I am signing voluntarily and with a complete understanding of the athletic handbook. This form must be signed and on file with the Calallen ISD Athletic Department to be eligible to participate in athletics.

Athlete's Name Date

Athlete's Signature

Parent/Guardian Name Date

Parent/Guardian Signature