

SIERRA BLANCA INDEPENDENT **SCHOOL DISTRICT**

2026-2027

Athletic Code of Conduct Handbook



Sierra Blanca ISD

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FORWARD

This handbook contains the basic policies and procedures that guide the operation of the Sierra Blanca Athletic Department and its expectations. All personnel associated with the Athletic Department should read and study this guide in order to administer their specific aspect of the overall program in a proficient and proper manner. Understand that athletics is designed to accommodate students who have the ability and emotional stability to handle competition. One of the difficult tasks faced as a coach is making the judgment as to who should be selected to compete in this program. Students are not obligated to take part in athletics, nor is it required for graduation. It should be stressed that being a member of an athletic team is a privilege and not a right. Since it is a privilege, the coach has the authority to revoke the privilege when rules are not followed. The head coach of the program and team will decide on playing time and roster size. Our athletic programs at the Varsity level are designed to compete at a level to challenge for a District Championship and post-season play. We will strive to play all athletes at the sub-varsity level in each contest. We are all aware that being involved in athletics demands a lot of time and dedication from coaches and athletes themselves. The purpose of the Vaquero athletic program is to provide opportunities to these students to pursue and understand the values of attitude, commitment, responsibility, accountability, work ethic and team. The operational basis of the program is designed for each student to be challenged in these values through the day-to-day process of being in this program. We all want an athletic program

that will be a complement to the Sierra Blanca Independent School District, and we ask that all of you involved work hard to make this reality.

ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

The athletic program shall have as its primary purpose a wholesome development of all student athletes. All policies, objectives, relationships, and activities shall be governed by this student-centered philosophy. The athletic program should be a program of competitive interschool athletics based on rules and regulations set up by the University Interscholastic League and the Texas Education Agency. All coaches should have a thorough knowledge of these rules, particularly those governing the sports with which he/she is involved. Athletics is an integral part of the educational process and, as such, the control of and the responsibility for the athletic program should rest entirely with the school authorities.

All athletics are beneficial, and each sport should receive equal emphasis in seasons. Every effort should be made to encourage boys and girls to participate in as many sports as possible. Any coach who encourages athletes to specialize in one sport to the detriment of another shall be held accountable to the athletic director and the administration.

All persons connected with the athletic program must exemplify all those traits of character, citizenship, sportsmanship, honesty, and emotional and moral stability that should be instilled in the participants of the program.

OBJECTIVES AND STANDARDS

School athletics has tremendous potential for meeting the needs of our youth. Competition and cooperation have long been prized by our American athletic programs. An intensive, well-balanced program of interscholastic sports should therefore be offered to all students. Interscholastic athletics for the physically gifted represents an area of great potential for practicing the pursuit of excellence.

It is therefore the goal of the athletic program to offer this opportunity of participation to every student who has the ability and desire to do so. However, no student is obligated to take part in athletics, nor is this required for graduation. It is stressed that this is a privilege, not a right. Since it is a privilege, the coach has the authority to revoke the privilege when rules are not complied with. These special standards for athletes will provide the security of authority that youths need. The athletes will know what they can do and what they cannot do. They will realize that the school wishes him/her to reach the highest possible achievement level, both in interscholastic athletics and in their own life.

The following areas support the significant importance in the establishment of the type of athletic program necessary to achieve objectives as stated above.

BEHAVIOR:

- ❑ Proper dress and appearance, good grooming and personal hygiene
- ❑ Abstinence from alcohol, tobacco, and drugs
- ❑ Pursuing physical fitness through training, adequate rest and proper nutrition

CITIZENSHIP:

- ❑ Exemplary conduct, on and off campus
- ❑ No obscene language or gestures
- ❑ Adherence to school and community rules
- ❑ Respect for individuals and property
- ❑ Appreciation for scholarship and academic achievement

TEAM RESPONSIBILITY:

- ❑ Common goals and group loyalties
- ❑ Subordination of self-interest to team values
- ❑ Self-discipline and personal sacrifice for team goals

EDUCATIONAL AIMS

STUDENT ATHLETE

Student athlete means an individual who engages in, is eligible to engage in, or may be eligible in the future to engage in, any school sponsored sport. If an individual is permanently ineligible to participate in a particular school sport, the individual is not a student – athlete for the purposes of that sport.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

The UIL governs many extracurricular activities for students in grades 6-12. Participants must maintain a 73 average in each of their classes for each of the 9-week grading periods. If a student makes below a 73 on their report card, they cannot compete for a minimum of three weeks. Students who are academically ineligible may continue to work out with their teams but may not travel or sit with the team during competition. If at the end of the three-week suspension they are passing ALL their classes with 73 or above, they will be then eligible to compete again. The number of credits the student has earned determines eligibility for the first six weeks of school. Credits for student-athletes are as follows.

1. Sophomores: 6 credits

2. Juniors: 12 credits

3. Seniors: 18 credits

GRADING PROCEDURES

Participants will receive a grade of 100 if:

- 1. They fully participated each day apart from illness, injury or family emergency.**
- 2. Their attitudes and behavior constantly demonstrate courtesy, respect and sportsmanship to other participants, teams, and sponsors.**
- 3. They are on time to and actively involved in each part of their workouts, games, and competitions.**
- 4. They abide by the requirements and expectations of participants as communicated in the UIL participant handbook.**
- 5. 5 points will be deducted for each day that the participant does not dress out.**

The staff should motivate athletes to:

- Excel in academics first before anything else**
- Acquire self-discipline and control.**
- Accept imposed discipline.**
- Think for themselves.**
- Work with others for the common cause**
- Play the game hard, fair, and within the rules.**
- Acquire self-confidence under pressure and a sense of values for later in life.**

In order for our program to be successful, we must have on the part of the coaches and players, these ingredients:

- Tremendous enthusiasm and moral
- Discipline
- Loyalty
- Conditioning

VAQUERO ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

RULE AND REGULATIONS

- All athletes must comply with all UIL and Sierra Blanca ISD eligibility requirements in order to participate
- All athletes will reflect a positive attitude and display great sportsmanship in victory and defeat
- All athletes will always show respect for everyone
- All athletes will abide by the Sierra Blanca ISD dress code at all school related events, activities and trips
- All athletes must faithfully attend practices and abide by team rules as set forth by the coach
- Bullying will not be tolerated (ZERO TOLERANCE)

Each athlete, whether a starter or backup must respond with maximum effort on practice days so the team may achieve maximum results on game days. All athletes must have the following forms completed and on file in the school office:

- Physicals
- Insurance information
- Release and Participation
- Signed Code of Conduct
- UIL Anabolic steroid use and random steroid testing/student agreement
- Concussion acknowledgement form
- Sudden cardiac arrest awareness form

All athletes must value school property and equipment.

- **DO NOT** alter or cut any uniform
- Stealing will not be tolerated
- Athletes will be respectful of other schools' facilities and equipment when attending away games
- All school facilities will remain clean. This includes locker rooms, gym, school buses, locker rooms and weight rooms.

All athletes will be respectful in actions and words.

- Athletes will always be heard using manners when asking for something such as please and thank you.
- When addressing adults, teachers, coaches, trainers and other athletes: proper language regarding respect will be used.
- Phrases such as **GOOD MORNING, BE SAFE, HOW ARE YOU** and **HAVE A GREAT DAY** are all part of who we are as a team.

DRESS CODE & APPEARANCE

Participants are expected to dress appropriately for workouts, each day, and competitions. Students should refrain from wearing hair styles or hair color that draws attention to themselves. Male students participating in sports are required to be clean shaven. If a sponsor requires school issued clothing to be worn, it will be the responsibility of the participant to ensure that the clothing is clean and worn for workouts or competitions. Participants will be issued school purchased clothing to compete in and should always maintain the condition of the uniform. Failure to maintain the practice or game uniform will result in reimbursement to the school for the full price of a replacement. Participants, when not in uniform but at a school function, will dress according to the specifications in the Sierra Blanca ISD dress code. Failure to do so will result in

the participant's parents being contacted.

**For*

*more information, see the Sierra Blanca ISD student handbook.**

SOCIAL MEDIA

Inappropriate or prohibited conduct may include, but is not limited to:

- Posting photos, videos, or comments showing the personal use or condoning the use of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs.
- Posting photos, videos, or comments that are obscene. This includes posting links to websites that contain such material.
- Using inappropriate or offensive language in comments, videos, or postings, such as threats of violence or derogatory comments pertaining to race or gender, or other violations of Sierra Blanca ISD policy.

TOBACCO/ALCOHOL ABUSE

NO tobacco and / or alcohol will be permitted on campus in accordance with State Law. Third hand reports of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal substance use off campus will result in parent conference and possible suspension from the team.

Below are written consequences for non-compliance

1st. OFFENSE: Athletic discipline (carpet pushes, log rolls, etc. , amount will be up to the coach of the sport) **2nd.**

OFFENSE: Athletic discipline (carpet pushes, log rolls, etc., amount will be up to the coach of the sport, no practice for the week plus 1 Game suspension

3rd. OFFENSE: 2 Days of ISS plus 3 Game suspension. Athletes will also be barred from sport till suspension is up which means no practice or attending games.

Violations of this policy may jeopardize an individual's status as a student-athlete and may result in disciplinary action up to and including separation from the athletic program.

ABSENCES

Any absence during the week immediately following a game day home or away will result in sitting out for the next scheduled game unless a doctor's excuse is provided. Parents' notes from parents asking for athletes to be excused will not be accepted. Students need to make every effort to be at school, each class, and on time every day. Returning late from a game or competition on a school night is no reason to be absent or late from school the next morning. The sponsor(s) will investigate these types of absences and other recurrent absences. If a participant must be out of school on a game day because of illness or family emergency, they must have a note from a physician, parent, or attend at least half of the day's classes to be eligible to play that evening. The participant must have also notified the sponsor(s) or coach(s) in advance of the absence.

Participants of ISS will not participate in UIL events during that time.

LETTERING IN UIL EVENTS

A participant must be a full-time member for two years and have participated in at least six extracurricular activities before receiving a letter and jacket. (Three freshman year and three sophomore year must be the same event) A participant may receive a letter and jacket if they were permanently removed due to being injured in a particular sport/event. A participant may receive a letter and jacket if they compete at the state level. *NOTE:* However, if a participant is permanently removed from the varsity or quits during the season, that participant will forfeit their credit towards a letter jacket for that sport/event.

TEAM TRAVEL

Athletes will be required to travel on school transportation with the team to away games. After the game, those athletes wishing to ride home or to another destination other than school transportation must have a permission slip signed by parents /guardians and be approved by the head coach. No text messages will be accepted as permission.

Players that are on the team but are injured with a doctor's note restricting activity, will not be eligible for travel with the team to away games. We want to be sure the athlete is utilizing this time for rest and any doctor recommendations in order to return to play as soon as possible. Final discretion for travel will be determined by the athletic director or administration.

PARTICIPATION OF SPORTS

The Sierra Blanca ISD UIL Department wholeheartedly supports the philosophy that participants should participate in a number of events during their middle and high school careers. Participants should never make the decision to quit playing or participating in an event until they have spoken with a coach or sponsor, as well as their parents, for that particular event, at which point the students should decide to continue or withdraw based on sound and well thought-out consideration. If a participant begins their season in a particular event, it is expected of them to follow through until the season finishes; however, if a participant cannot for some reason continue to participate, they must take the proper course of action, as outlined in the in the prior paragraph, in order to withdraw from an event. Moreover, if a participant decides to

withdraw from any event, they will not be allowed to participate in any other school-sponsored event for 180 school days from the date of leaving. However, if the participant has a medical condition that will require being pulled out of an event during the season, the participant, sponsors/coaches in all events in which the student participates, Athletic Director, as well as the parents of the participants shall meet to determine the need for an abbreviated season. If the reasons for the participant's withdrawal are well found and agreed upon by all individuals, the participant will be allowed to participate in another event.

CONSEQUENCES

FAILURE to comply with Athletic Code of Conduct will result in disciplinary action(s) at the Athletic Director and Coach's discretion. The severity and frequency of the information will be taken into consideration. Depending on the severity, the athlete may be dismissed from all athletics for the year.

NOTE FOR PARENTS

The Sierra Blanca ISD UIL program will, hopefully, work in conjunction with the parents to provide an enriching experience for the student-athlete. Coaches and sponsors will always try to be proactive in contacting parents when concerns arise about their children. We encourage all parents who have any questions or concerns involving their child to contact the coaches or sponsors and set up an appointment to discuss the issues involved. Coaches and sponsors will not spend time during practices, before or after games discussing a concern unless it is an emergency. Please call the coach or sponsor and set up an appointment

with them during their conference period. We ALL want the best possible experience for all our UIL participants.

PLEASE FOLLOW LINK BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION CONCERNING UIL AND PARENT INFORMATION:

https://www.uiltexas.org/files/athletics/manuals/Parent_Info_Handbook_21-22.pdf

HS/MS ATHLETIC SPORTS

FOOTBALL
VOLLEYBALL
BASKETBALL
TRACK (7th & 8th Only)
CROSS COUNTRY (7th & 8th Only)

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

FOOTBALL
VOLLEYBALL
BASKETBALL
CROSS COUNTRY
TRACK



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

My signature below indicates that I have read and understand all the information written and adopted in the Sierra Blanca ISD Athletic Code of Conduct; I agree to abide by the rules and regulations for the school year 2026-2027.

Student Athlete (print)

Student Athlete (signature)

Parent / Guardian (print)

Parent / Guardian (signature)

Date

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!



PARENT PERMISSION FORM

In the event that I am unavailable and cannot be contacted, I am granting permission to school officials to act on my behalf.

I also HEREBY release Sierra Blanca ISD, coaching staff, school officials, and the Board of Trustees from any payment responsibility for any hospital and/or doctor's bills in connection with any injury/fatality suffered by my student athlete while participating in any UIL extra-curricular activities for the school year 2026-2027.

Student Athlete (Print)

Student Athlete (Signature)

Parent/Guardian (Print)

Parent/Guardian (Signature)

Date

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!