

## IRVING ISD ATHLETICS CONSTITUTION

Irving ISD strives to promote student interest in curriculum offerings, scholastic achievement, student self-government, and mastery of essential knowledge and skills through school-sponsored organizations. Student participation is optional and governed by Texas law, the Student Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct in addition to organization specific constitutions like this one. Student participating in an Irving ISD athletics program will be expected to know and adhere to the provisions of this Student Organization Constitution.

### *PURPOSE*

The Irving Independent School District is committed to excellence in athletics as a part of a larger commitment to education.

The guiding principle behind Irving ISD's participation in University Interscholastic League activities is our belief in its educational value for our students. Secondary athletics promotes character traits of high value to personal development and success in later life. These include the drive to take one's talents to the highest level of performance; embracing the discipline needed to reach high standards; learning to work with others as a team pursuit of a common goal; and adherence to the codes of fairness and respect. **Participation in the athletic program and/or University Interscholastic League contests is a PRIVILEGE, not a right, and with that privilege comes certain responsibilities such as integrity, respect, sportsmanship, character, honesty, and pride.**

### *GOALS*

Irving ISD will define expectations both on the field and off. The mission of the Irving ISD Athletic Department is to provide student-athletes with a comprehensive program of competitive athletics that will enhance their over-all educational experience. Win or lose, we will use sports to teach the life lessons that will help our students be successful academically, socially, and as contributing members of society. We recognize that great demands are placed on students who participate in athletics, and we are committed to providing support to help them manage these demands and get the most out of their high school experience. Athletes are also expected to adhere to a level of conduct that brings credit to themselves and to their schools and uphold the values of citizenship and service.

### *OBJECTIVE(S)*

It is the desire of the administration and coaching staffs of the Irving Independent School District to communicate to its students that participation in athletics is a **PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT**. Participation on athletic teams and in related activities, while being an honor, is an opportunity for young athletes to learn important lessons about the responsibilities that are assumed by individuals in leadership roles. Therefore, all athletes are expected to adhere to the following:

- Athletes will be tough competitors in the athletic arena, but outside the competitive arena they are expected to conduct themselves as gentlemen and ladies at-all-times, demonstrating respect for their administrators, teachers and fellow students.

- Athletes are to display/model behaviors associated with positive leaders both in the school and in the community;
- Athletes are to exhibit good citizenship at-all-times;
- Athletes are to serve as positive representatives for their team, coaches, school, district, and community during competitions and interactions with rivals; and
- Athletes are expected to strive for academic excellence and to adhere to the Board-approved *Student Code of Conduct* as well as this Irving ISD Athletics Constitution.

All students participating in athletics are expected to comply with all guidelines and with the Board-approved Student Code of Conduct and Student Handbook. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary consequences and/or removal from athletics. In addition, Board Policy **FO (LOCAL)** for Extracurricular Standards of Behavior shall apply.

### *STANDARD POLICIES / EXPECTATIONS*

#### Attendance

As a member of athletics program, students are expected to attend school regularly and will have the *opportunity* to participate in meetings, practices, events and activities unique to athletes. Every effort should be made to schedule appointments outside the school day and practice times. All athletes are expected to contact their coaches if absent. (See Practice Regulations below) All Irving ISD athletic events (practices and contests) have first priority over outside athletic practices and contests – i.e. little league, club, select, AAU, H.I.T., etc.

#### Academic Performance/Grades

As stated above, Student Organizations like athletics are intended to enhance the educational environment. The following provisions apply to all extracurricular activities as stated in the Irving ISD Student Handbook:

- A student who receives at the end of a grading period a grade below 70 in any academic class—other than an Identified Exempt Course—may not participate in extracurricular activities for at least three school weeks per UIL/TEA Side by Side, NO PASS NO PLAY. For a list of current Identified Exempt Courses, please go to [www.irvingisd.net/athletics](http://www.irvingisd.net/athletics).
- Per Irving ISD local policy as summarized in the Irving ISD Student Handbook, if a student fails two consecutive grading periods in any identified Exempt Course as stated above, the exemption from suspension of participation in extracurricular activities shall no longer apply, and the student shall be ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities in accordance with the same conditions and timelines for suspension in any other course. This applies regardless if student is in or out of UIL season.
- An ineligible student may practice or rehearse but may not participate in any competitive activity.
- A student is allowed in a school year up to ten absences not related to post-district competition, a maximum of five absences for post-district competition prior to state, and a maximum of two absences for state competition. All extracurricular activities and public

performances, whether UIL activities or other activities approved by the board, are subject to these restrictions.

- An absence for participation in an activity that has not been approved will receive an unexcused absence.

Athletes are expected to practice with their team(s) during their ineligibility. Athletes showing a repeated history of failing grades and credit issues may be suspended/removed (practice, competitions, etc.) from the athletic program until a pattern of passing and academic discipline is shown.

Grading guidelines established in the Irving ISD Student Handbook shall be followed. The teacher (coach) of a class is responsible for assessing students for promotion based only on “academic achievement or demonstrated proficiency of the subject matter of the course or grade level.” (TEC 28.021)

### Behavior

Students participating in athletic programs, whether on campus or at other locations, including traveling to and from, shall adhere to the minimum behavior expectations outlined in the published Irving ISD Student Handbook and Student Code of Conduct. [FO(LOCAL)].

Additional extracurricular behavior standards apply to participants in athletic programs. These are independent of the Student Code of Conduct and may result in additional independent disciplinary actions approved by the head campus principal or designee. Extracurricular standards of behavior may take into consideration conduct that occurs any time, on or off school property. Further, a student may be removed from participation in extracurricular activities or may be excluded from school honors for violation of these extracurricular behavior standards or for violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

A student shall be informed of any extracurricular behavior standards at the beginning of each school year or when the student first begins participation in the activity. A student and his or her parent shall sign and return to the sponsor or coach a statement that they have read the extracurricular behavior standards and consent to them as a condition of participation in the activity.

Student athletes are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship both on and off the field or court. During competitions, student athletes will display respect for officials and leave the resolution of any conflicts to coaches. Student athletes, as leaders, should demonstrate the ability to accept defeat as well as to be gracious winners.

Stealing items from other players, students, school, etc., will not be tolerated. Consequences will be determined on a case by case basis and may include suspension or removal from the team.

### **Irving ISD Athletic Code of Conduct**

The discipline code for athletes has been developed in compliance with the District’s Board-approved *Student Code of Conduct*, but with increased requirements due to the higher standards

expected of athletes as student leaders. It is the intent of the athletic staff of Irving ISD to emphasize that self-discipline is an integral and essential part of any successful academic and athletic program. Specific information regarding the levels of discipline violations, and consequences, can be found in the Board-approved *Student Code of Conduct* which is given to every student at the beginning of the school year. Students disciplined for infractions at the campus-level will also receive one or more of the following consequences under the athletic code of conduct.

*In-School Suspension* – Students may be removed from the regular classroom and assigned to In-School Suspension (ISS) for any behavior listed in the ***Standards for Student Conduct, General Conduct Violations*** (see Irving ISD Student Code of Conduct) and will result in a coach/athlete conference. At the coach’s sole discretion one or more of the following consequences may also be assigned:

- a. Coach/athlete conference with additional sport-appropriate conditioning activities.
- b. Coach/athlete/parent conference and a behavior contract.
- c. Coach/athlete/parent conference and possible suspension for one or more games depending on length of assignment in ISS and the circumstances related to type of offense and number of offenses.
- d. Students will be required to practice but will not be allowed to participate in games until the completion of their ISS assignment. The ISS assignment is considered complete at the end of the school day\* on the last assigned day of ISS.

Repeated violations of ***General Conduct Violations*** may result in more serious consequences and/or removal from the team and athletic program for up to one calendar year from the date of the offense.

\*The end of the school day is defined as the time of school dismissal.

*Out-of-School-Suspension (OSS)* – Students may be suspended for any behavior listed in the Student Code of Conduct as a General Conduct Violation, DAEP offense, or expellable offense. Students will not be allowed to practice or play in games until they complete the OSS assignment and return to a traditional classroom setting. In addition to campus-based consequences and a coach/athlete conference, the Athletic Department may impose one or more of the following consequences:

- a. Coach/athlete conference with additional sport-appropriate conditioning activities.
- b. Coach/athlete/parent conference and a behavior contract.
- c. Coach/athlete/parent conference and suspension for one or more games depending on length of assignment in OSS and the circumstances related to type of offense and number of offenses.
- d. Removal from athletic program from one calendar year up to the entire high school career.

*Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) Placement* –The period of removal to the DAEP will be based upon district guidelines that are in effect at the time the offense occurs (see Irving ISD Student Code of Conduct). Athletes are prohibited from participating in or attending any school-sponsored/school-related activities during the period of removal to the DAEP. As such,

assignment to DAEP automatically removes an athlete from the athletic program for the duration of the DAEP placement. The Athletic Department may also impose one or more of the following consequences in addition to the DAEP placement and a coach/athlete conference.

- a. Coach/athlete conference with additional sport-appropriate conditioning activities.
- b. Coach/athlete/parent conference and a behavior contract.
- c. Coach/athlete/parent conference and suspension for one or more games depending on length of assignment in DAEP and the circumstances related to type of offense and number of offenses.
- d. Removal from athletic program from one calendar year up to the entire high school career.

For athletes to re-enter the athletic program after having been removed to DAEP for any reason, the following procedure will be followed:

1. Athletes and their parents(s)/guardians(s) will meet with the Campus Athletic Council\*. At this meeting a probationary contract for re-entry into the athletic program will be developed. After discussing the specific contents and obligations outlined in the contract, all parties present will be required to sign the contract.
2. Upon re-entry into the program on a probationary status, athletes will be allowed to practice, but suspended from participating in any competition for a period of ten consecutive school days. The suspension will begin on the first day of re-enrollment on the school campus.
3. During the ten-day probationary suspension, athletes will be required to complete additional sport appropriate conditioning activities as directed by the coach.

\*Campus Athletic Council shall be composed of the High School Campus Athletic Coordinator, Middle School Athletic Coordinator (middle school students), the head coach of the sport(s) involved, and the principal or an appropriate assistant principal of the campus.

All DAEP drug and alcohol-related violations will require athletes and their parent(s)/guardians(s) to meet with the Campus Athletic Council to consider a probationary contract for re-entry. A second violation (regardless of where the infraction occurs) will result in a suspension for one calendar year from the date of the second incident.

*Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Placement (JJAEP)* – Any behavior that falls into this category requires mandatory expulsion from school and all school-sponsored/school-related activities to JJAEP. Athletes placed in a JJAEP will automatically be suspended from the athletic program for a period of one calendar year from the date of the incident up to complete removal from the program for the remainder of their high school career. Upon completion of this suspension from athletics, athletes who desire re-entry into the program must meet with the Campus Athletic Council and be accompanied by their parent/guardian.

At this meeting, a probationary contract will be developed outlining the requirement for reentry. If all parties agree to the contract, as evidenced by their signatures, the student will be allowed to re-enter the program on a probationary basis.

## **Specific Athletic Code Violations and Consequences**

### **Alcohol and Drug Violations**

Student who is under the influence of, consuming, in possession, delivery, provision, solicitation or sale of prohibited substances at a non-school function or student is charged or convicted for criminal behavior (including non-felony behavior), while at non-school related function (non-mandatory DAEP, non-expulsion offenses). It is not a violation of the Irving ISD Athletic Code of Conduct to receive a routine traffic violation. Discretion in the term of removal may be applied in the event of self-admission by the student to their campus administrator, campus athletic coordinator, and/or coach for a first offense only.\*

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Offense**

- Coach/athlete/administrator conference
- Removal from leadership role for the remainder of the school year
- Removal from the extracurricular activity for a period of twenty-one (21) calendar days from date the incident was reported.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Offense (within calendar year of 1<sup>st</sup> offense)**

- Coach/athlete/administrator conference
- Removal from leadership role for the remainder of the school year
- Removal from the extracurricular activity for a period of ninety (90) school days.

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Offense (within calendar year of 2<sup>nd</sup> offense)**

- Removal from extracurricular activity for one calendar year from the date of the offense.

\*Self-admission is considered the action by which a student initiates a report of his/her own misconduct to his/her own campus administrator, campus athletic coordinator, and/or coach prior to notification by any third party to the campus administrator, campus athletic coordinator, and/or coach.

### **Criminal Charges**

Student athletes who are arrested and charged with selling, giving, or delivering to another person or possessing, using, or being under the influence of a controlled substance (including steroids) whether on or off campus, will be automatically suspended from the athletic program. The campus athletic director may, at his discretion, reinstate an athlete who has been arrested but not charged should circumstances warrant. Athletes found guilty of an offense will be suspended from all athletic participation of any kind for a period of one calendar year from the date of the incident. In cases where a campus has jurisdiction to take disciplinary action, athletes must complete any campus-level disciplinary sanctions before being eligible to return to the athletic program.

Deferred adjudication does not equate to “not guilty”. A judge may, after receiving a plea of guilt or a plea of nolo contendere defer further proceedings without entering an adjudication of guilt and place a defendant on community service. In effect, if the defendant complies with the

conditions of probation as ordered by the judge for a specified period of time, the defendant would receive the benefit of not actually being found guilty of the offense as charged. During the period of deferred adjudication, athletes will remain suspended from participation in any athletic activities. Students on deferred adjudication will need to complete the probationary period specified by the judge prior to consideration for reinstatement in the athletic program.

Likewise, deferred prosecution does not equate to “not guilty”. The prosecuting attorney may defer prosecution for any defendant if the preliminary investigation results in a determination that further proceedings in the case may not be necessary. The probation officer or other officer of the court may also request deferred prosecution in certain circumstances as allowed by statute. Deferred prosecution simply delays the court hearing regarding the student’s case for a period not to exceed six (6) months. The defendant is not detained during as a result of deferred prosecution. At the end of the deferred prosecution period, the court hearing is scheduled for a determination to be made in the criminal case. During the period of deferred prosecution, athletes will remain suspended from participation in any athletic activities.

Athletes, while under indictment for a felony, whether on or off campus, will not be allowed to participate in any capacity in the athletic program. (This includes exclusion from both practices and games.) When guilt or innocence is established, re-admission to the athletic program will be determined based upon that outcome. In cases where the campus has jurisdiction to take disciplinary action, the student must complete any campus-level disciplinary sanctions before returning to the athletic program.

### Bullying

Students found to use social media to bully, as that term is used in law and Board policy, shall be subject to disciplinary action, required to complete an appropriate rehabilitation program, and prohibited from being a member of and/or participating in Organization Activities. [(FFI(LOCAL) and FFI(LEGAL)].

### Hazing

Hazing is prohibited. [FM(LOCAL), FNCC(LEGAL)]. It includes any initiation or participation activity that endangers or adversely affects the mental or physical health or the safety of a student. Prior notice to or approval from the student or their parent/guardian does not excuse hazing. Further, legal consequences may apply in addition to those outlined in the Irving ISD Student Code of Conduct.

All members of Organization will be provided separated information regarding this prohibition. Students and parents are required to review this information and then acknowledge their receipt of the information and agreement to comply prior to student’s participation in Organization and/or Organization Activities.

### Communication

Students shall use electronic communication, including but not limited to social media, in compliance with the Student Code of Conduct and Student Handbook.

District employees are prohibited from using electronic media to communicate with students individually (one-on-one). If Organization Sponsor wishes to communicate with a group of students, such as all Organization members or officers, they may do so only under the following conditions:

1. written permission from the student's parent utilizing District form,
2. content is directly related to Organization or Organization Activities,
3. message is directed to a group of students (no individual messages), and
4. Parent was given the opportunity to join message group.

Electronic Communication includes, but is not limited to, text messages, Facebook messaging, Twitter, Remind 360, etc.

### Appropriate dress / Appearance

While participating in Organization Activities, students shall adhere to the District's Dress and Grooming policy as outlined in the Student Handbook and Student Code of Conduct. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary consequences according to the Student Code of Conduct.

The principal, in cooperation with the sponsor, coach, or other person in charge of an extracurricular activity, may regulate the dress and grooming of students who participate in the activity. Students who violate those standards shall be removed or excluded from the activity for a period determined by the principal or sponsor and may be subject to other disciplinary action as specified in the Student Code of Conduct. [See FO series]

### Fundraising

Students may participate in fundraising activities to benefit the Organization in accordance with Policy FJ(LOCAL). Participation shall be voluntary, related to the District's educational mission, not permitted during class time, and at the discretion of campus administration.

### Travel

All students involved in Organization Activities off campus, shall be, when available, transported to and from by Irving ISD vehicles and/or staff. [FMG(EXHIBIT)]. When Irving ISD does not provide transportation, or a parent/guardian believes a necessity exists for the student to use an alternative mode of transportation, the procedures outlined in FMG(EXHBIIT) shall be strictly followed.

Athletes, traveling as part of a team, will be expected to adhere to the following:

- Arrive at the designated location prior to scheduled meeting and departure time. Failure to fulfill this obligation may result in athletes being excluded from the trip.
- Assume responsibility for bringing appropriate equipment, if applicable.
- Dress in a neat and appropriate manner that complies with all dress and grooming guidelines or as directed by the coach.
- Demonstrate appropriate behavior and good citizenship from the time of departure and return to the campus.



- Athletes are expected to travel and return on the bus unless prior approval has been given on a completed Travel Release Form before the event. Athletes will only be released to their parent or guardian at the completion of the activity. All athletes must ride the bus to the event, and no athlete will be released to anyone other than a parent or guardian at the conclusion of the activity. Approvals will be granted on a case by case basis and normally will be family emergencies.

### Overnight Travel

Overnight travel is at the discretion of the Superintendent of Schools or his designee. Students athletes traveling for a district sponsored event shall be accompanied by district employees as sponsors and additional volunteer sponsors as appropriate and requested by the coach and/or campus athletic director. The gender of employee sponsors shall reflect the gender of students traveling.

In general, students are required to use District transportation for school-sponsored trips. However, a parent may request that his or her child be allowed to ride with or be released after the event to the parent or another adult designated by the parent. The request must be in writing, signed by the parent and submitted to the Organization Sponsor no later than two days prior to departure.

District personnel must accompany students on all school-sponsored trips and will assume responsibility for the students' safety and proper conduct. The District employee supervising any student trip will ensure that each student has a signed permission form for the trip and the necessary medical forms, including the Authorization to Secure Emergency Medical Treatment. [See FFAC(EXHIBIT)]

For trips of one day only, there must be a ratio of one adult for each 15 students in the elementary grades and one adult for each 20 students in the secondary grades. For any overnight trip, there must be at least one adult for each 15 students. When both male and female students participate in a school-sponsored overnight trip, they will be accompanied by at least one male and one female sponsor.

The expenses of chaperones for school-sponsored trips must be incorporated into the trip budget. Chaperones will be recruited at the earliest possible date and may participate in the fundraising activities of the student group to offset their expenses. The campus principal must approve all chaperones.

In advance of any student overnight trip, the District will obtain the criminal history of all persons serving as supervisors or chaperones. [See GKG]

Students will not drive themselves and/or another student except in extremely limited circumstances as determined by the District. Before a student may drive themselves, drive another student, or ride with another student to a District designated event, an Irving ISD Alternative Transportation Release of Liability and Acknowledgement of Risk form must be properly executed

by the student's parent/guardian and returned to the Organization Sponsor. [see FMG(EXHIBIT -B)]

### School Equipment

Student athletes are financially responsible for all equipment issued in their name. Unauthorized use of athletic uniforms or equipment will be considered a form of theft. All equipment financial responsibility must be cleared in each sport at the conclusion of each season/year.

### Practice Regulations

Athletes are responsible for:

- Notifying the appropriate coach of an anticipated absence prior to a practice or game. Failure to make proper notifications may result in suspension from the team. Unexcused absences and/or failure to notify a coach about an absence may result in a loss of playing time at the next contest(s).
- Obeying all rules established by the coach.
- Refraining from the use of profanity or vulgar language.
- Contributing their best at all times.

### Locker Room

Athletes are expected to:

- Lock all items in locker assigned and understand that lockers are the property of the school and are subject to search when there is a reasonable cause.
- Display appropriate behavior and refrain from "horse play" such as throwing towels, etc.
- Obtain permission from a coach prior to entering the equipment room.
- Return their equipment to its proper place before leaving the dressing room each day.
- Refrain from any actions that could be considered hazing, bullying, and/or sexual harassment.

### Withdrawing from the Team (Quitting a Sport)

Athletes wishing to withdraw from the team after the first contest:

- Need to think about their decision for 24 hours along with talking to their parents and their coach prior to quitting.
- Will forfeit any letter and/or award for the sport as well as end of season recognition i.e. banquets.
- Will be ineligible for participation in another sport until the end of the season of the sport from which they have withdrawn unless the head coaches of both sports agree to their participation.

### Multi-Sport Participation

Participation in multiple sports is encouraged as cross-sport training improves athleticism and helps athletes become more coachable. A student athlete must complete the first sport season they are in prior to beginning the next sport's season unless mutually agreed upon by both head coaches in cases where sports overlap more than two weeks.

### Strength and Conditioning

All student athletes will participate in strength and conditioning activities as a part of in-season and off-season training. Summer strength and conditioning is voluntary. A student athlete who participates in only one sport will be required to participate, in accordance with UIL rules, in that sport's off-season program.

### Awards and Lettering

Each student-athlete who begins and ends the season on the varsity team and is in good academic and behavioral standing will be considered to have lettered in his/her respective sport. Earned letter awards and jackets are purchased by the school district and may be denied in the event a student-athlete violates this Athletic Guidelines and/or Code of Conduct or is not in good academic standing.

### Training Rules

Athletes will refrain from using or possessing tobacco of any kind, consuming or possessing alcoholic beverages, or using or possessing any prohibited drugs such as marijuana, amphetamines, narcotics, or steroids on or off campus at all times. Athletes will also refrain from attending parties of any kind where alcohol and/or drugs are in the presence of minors.

NOTE: State law has added steroids to the list of illegal drugs. Anabolic steroids are for medical use only. State law prohibits the possession, dispensing, delivery, or administering of an anabolic steroid in any manner not allowed by state law. State law prohibits bodybuilding, muscle enhancement or increasing muscle bulk or strength through the use of anabolic steroid or human growth hormone by a person who is in good health without a valid medical purpose. Only a medical doctor may prescribe an anabolic steroid or human growth hormone for a person. A violation of state law concerning anabolic steroids or human growth hormones is a criminal offense punishable by confinement in jail or imprisonment in the Texas Department of Corrections. This law became effective September 1, 1989.

### Parent/Guardian Participation

Please inquire about how to best support your student's participation.

### Appeal/Grievance(s)

Student or parent complaints regarding any decision made pursuant to this Student Organization Constitution, including disciplinary consequences under the Irving ISD Student Code of Conduct

or this Athletic Constitution, shall be filed in accordance with Board Policy FNG(LOCAL). Board Policies FFH and FFI may also apply. The Board is not required to address a complaint concerning a student's participation in an extracurricular activity that does not involve a violation of a right guaranteed by the Education Code Chapter 26. [FNG (LEGAL)].

#### Additional Guidance from UIL

In addition to these guidelines, the Irving ISD athletic department adopts and will adhere to the standards and expectations outlined in the *University Interscholastic League's Sportsmanship Manual* which includes *C.A.R.E.* and the *UIL Student-Athletes Code of Conduct* below as well as the *Irving ISD's Athletic Code of Conduct*.

### **UIL SPORTSMANSHIP MANUAL- Character, Attitude, Responsibility, Ethcis (C.A.R.E.)**

#### **CHARACTER**

The qualities a person possesses that shape the way they live their life and affects the manner in which other people view them is character. Someone who displays good character is honest with themselves and others, acts with a high level of integrity and treats others with respect even when they disagree with their views. A high level of character creates a positive image of you in the eyes of others as well as reflects favorably for your program.

#### **ATTITUDE**

A positive attitude is essential when participating in athletics and other school sponsored activities. Attitude is the disposition that a person shows when reacting to situations whether they be positive or negative. People with a positive attitude are better able to interact with others and respond to adversity in a healthy manner.

#### **RESPONSIBILITY**

Taking responsibility is one of the essential qualities of good sportsmanship. Being responsible is accepting one's actions and showing you are aware of how your decisions affect others. It is always very important that you conduct yourself with pride and take responsibility for yourself and your school.

#### **ETHICS**

A person's ethics can be seen by the way they react when faced with situations that call their integrity and judgment into account. Displaying a high level of ethical behavior is essential when participating in UIL athletics. Whether you are a player, coach, fan, official or administrator it is your responsibility to always conduct yourself in an ethical manner that will help promote the goals of educational athletics.

### **University Interscholastic League (UIL) Student-Athletes Code of Conduct**

#### **Trustworthiness**

- *Trustworthiness* - Be worthy of trust in all I do.
- *Integrity* - Live up to high ideals of ethics and sportsmanship and always pursue victory with honor. Do what is right even when it is unpopular or personally costly.

- *Honesty*- Live and compete honorably. Never lie, cheat, steal or engage in any other dishonest or unsportsmanlike conduct.
- *Reliability* - Fulfill commitments. Do what I say I will do. Be on time to practices and games.
- *Loyalty* - Be loyal to my school and team. Put the team above personal glory.

#### Respect

- *Respect* - Treat all people with respect at all time and require the same of other student-athletes.
- *Class* - Live and play with class. Be a good sport. Be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity. Give fallen opponents help, compliment extraordinary performance and show sincere respect in pre- and post-game rituals.
- *Disrespectful Conduct* - Do not engage in disrespectful conduct of any sort including profanity, obscene gestures, offensive remarks, trash-talking, taunting, boastful celebrations or other actions that demean individuals or the sport.
- *Respect Officials* - Treat contest officials with respect. Do not complain about or argue with official calls or decisions made during an athletic event.

#### Caring

- *Concern for Others* - Demonstrate concern for others. Never intentionally injure any player or engage in reckless behavior that might cause injury to others or myself.
- *Teammates* - Help promote the well-being of teammates by positive counseling and encouragement or by reporting any unhealthy or dangerous conduct to coaches.

#### Fairness

- *Be Fair* - Live up to the highest standards of fair play. Be open-minded, and always be willing to listen and learn.

#### Responsibility

- *Importance of Education* - Be a student first and commit to getting the best education I can. Be honest with myself about the likelihood of getting an athletic scholarship or playing on a professional level and remember that many universities will not recruit student-athletes that do not have a serious commitment to their education, the ability to succeed academically or the character to represent their institution honorably.
- *Role Modeling* - Consistently exhibit good character and conduct myself as a positive role model. Remember, participation in sports is a privilege, not a right and that I am expected to represent my school, coach and teammates with honor both on and off the field. Suspension or termination of the participation privilege is within the sole discretion of the school administration.
- *Self-Control* - Exercise self-control. Do not fight or show excessive displays of anger or frustration. Have the strength to overcome the temptation to retaliate.
- *Healthy Lifestyle* - Safeguard my health. Do not use any illegal or unhealthy substances including alcohol, tobacco and drugs or engage in any unhealthy techniques to gain, lose or maintain weight.
- *Integrity of the Game* - Protect the integrity of the game. Play the game according to the rules.

## Citizenship

- *Play by the Rules* - Maintain a thorough knowledge of and abide by all applicable game and competition rules.
- *Spirit of Rules* - Honor the spirit and the letter of the rules. Avoid temptations to gain competitive advantage through improper techniques that violate the highest traditions of sportsmanship.

*The contents of Irving ISD Athletics Constitution are not contractual, and do not give rise to a claim of breach of contract against the school district. Further, the contents of these guidelines apply to all athletes in the Irving Independent School District, as the contents now appear or may be amended in the future. It is the policy of Irving ISD not to discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, religion, color, or national origin in its educational programs and/or activities or in its employment practices.*